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THE TABLOID

ELECTION '97: no one's pulling our strings

WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 1997

Yes please, **Bridget Jones**



WEATHER: Doll and drizzly at first

(IR45p) 40p

NEWS

The family who murdered their mother page 3

tes: It's going to be May Day, senior Tories confirm

Senior Conservatives said last night that if John Major had not called a general election by next Wednesday, he would hold fire for his favoured date of

1 May. Options are being closed by the strict timetables that apply to election dates, and an annext week if he is to call an elec-

AUL No thanks,

says Virginia Ironside

tion on 20 March. It emerged at Westminster yesterday that a 20 March poll is the only way in which Mr Major can be certain of averting the Wirral South by-election, in which the Conservatives are facing humiliating defeat.

A 20 March poll would mean

week on Monday. But it would smack of panic if Mr Major did not give at least two or three working days' notice of his intentions - to give time for Parliament to tidy up and clear the

legislative programme. In 1992. Parliament was dissolved on 16 March, but the election announcement was made by Mr Major on 11 the dissolution of Parliament a March. In 1987, the announce-

ment was made on 11 May, with Parliament dissolved on 18 May. Parliament would have to be dissolved for a 20 March election on 24 February - which suggests an announcement by next Wednesday at the latest. Speculation that the Prime Minister might hope to kill the by-election by calling an election

for the next-favoured option, 10

April, is ruled out by the fact

that Parliament would not be dissolved until 12 March - giving the new Wirral South MP plenty of time to take his seat. Some ministers and MPs have argued that if Mr Major announced his intention to call an April election on 24 February - three days before the by-election - that would be enough to get the by-election called off.

But that decision would be in

the hands of Phil Manson. Wirral South's acting returning officer, and all the indications yesterday were that Mr Manson would feel obliged to continue with the by-election.

Although the definitive election guide, Parker's Conduct of Elections, makes no reference to the problem, guidance issued by the Commons library says. "If Parliament were still in existence

on [the by-election] polling day, the acting returning officer might well consider he had no authority to cancel the election."

It would be open to Labour to challenge cancellation of the by-election in the High Court. If Mr Major cannot be certain of getting the by-election called off, colleagues and yesterday, he would be better off

senior colleague said yesterday. The build-up to the election continued apace yesterday, with Mr Major holding a press conference on education - at which he was forced to issue a public rebuke to Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell for his blunder over the Scottish parliament. Tory clouds in Wirral, page 5

Dorrell rebuked, page 5

Bad results to cost jobs of teachers

Education Editor

Teachers whose pupils fail to match up to national standards may be sacked under new government measures designed to increase parent power announced yes-terday by the Prime Minister. Schools will have to report to parents

on whether they are meeting national targets and there will be more league ta-bles, Mr Major said as the pre-election partie over education intensified

Both the main parties claimed that the other was stealing their ideas on how to raises sandards. Labour said John Major had done a U-turn on target-setting which it had backed for several years. The Prime Minister accused Labour of playing "catch up" politics.

Ministerial announcements came

tumbling out of Whitehall and Westminister. A press briefing by Gillian Shephard the Secretary of State for Education, on the strengthening of A-levels, was overshadowed by another at Conservative Central Office where the Prime Minister, backed by Mrs Shephard, disclosed the new league table

Teacher unions described the decision to appraise teachers partly by their pupils, test and exam results as "the policy of the madhouse". Heads said more league tables would be stremuously opposed by the entire profession.

New school reports will have to include schools' own targets, the local authority's target, the national target, the na-tional average target and the achievement of similar types of schools. Mr Major said. Hit squads will be sent into failing local authorities.

Performance tables for National Curriculum tests will be published for pupils aged seven and 14 as well as for GCSE and A-level pupils as at present. The first table for 11 pages and are likely to the first table for 11 pages and are likely to the first table for 11 pages and are likely to the first table for 11 pages and are likely to the first table for 11 pages and are likely table and table for 11 pages and table for 12 pages and table for 12 pages and table for 12 pages and table for 14 pages and tabove for 14 pages and table for 14 pages and table for 14 pages a tables for 11-year-olds will be published

Mr Major said: "The next stage of our parent power reforms will ensure once and for all that parents are the masters of their children's schooling."

David Blunkett, shadow Secretary of State for Education, said: "Two weeks ago. Labour proposed a new national literacy target as an addition to the Edu-

cation Bill. Education Minister Eric Forth refused to accept the clause. Now, two weeks later, we have another U-turn from ministers as they accept yet another Labour proposal to raise standards." Only a week ago, he added. Labour had announced its plans to improve poor local education authorities.

On league tables, he explained that Labour would continue to publish na-tional tables of GCSE and A-level results but would require results for seven and 14-year olds to be published only by lo-cal authorities. The party would decide later what to do about tables for 11-year-

Mr Major ridiculed the idea that Labour was the party of higher standards. "We should judge Labour by their actions, not their words, by their opposition to our reforms and by the fact that the 20 worst performing education anthorities have all been under long-term Labour control," he said.

Mrs Shephard promised tough action against under-performing teachers. She said: "We shall now be introducing a rigorous appraisal scheme for teachers, judging them on their pupils' perfor-mance. Where necessary we will be re-moving teachers who cannot reach the

required national standards." New criteria to judge teachers were being drawn up including classroom control, organisation, lesson planning, ability to convey enthusiasm for the subject

and pupils' performance.

Nigei de Gruchy, general secretary of
the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers. said: "On the face of it, years of development of teacher appraisal are to be swept aside in the interests of a few seconds of prime-ministerial soundbite in the Conservative Party's increasingly desperate attempts to catch the big idea on

But David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said; "Of course teachers must be appraised on their performance, including the results of their pupils. What is wholly unacceptable is for the Secre-tary of State to imply that there is some easy route for removing incompetent teachers."



In the picture: A Papuan boy, photographed by Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, and on show until Friday in the Tenth Annual Photographic Exhibition by the Parliamentary Photographic Group in the

Upper Waiting Hall of the House of Commons. Another of the exhibitors, Lord Healey, passing it, remarked that it reminded him strongly of certain young Conservative candidates in the forthcoming election.

Dorrell humiliated

John Major issued a humiliating rebuke to his Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, over Mr Dorrell's claim that a future Conservative govern-ment would abolish a Scottish par-Page 5

Russia's nuclear threat Russia yesterday threatened that it might use nuclear weapons pre-emptively in future conflicts, in response to conventional attack. The move was designed to put increased pressure on Nato.

Leading article, page 11 Nato.

British Oscar hopes The English Patient and Secrets and Lies topped the British nominations for Oscars.

Vlora any continues
Furious citizens of the Albanian city
of Vlora yesterday set fire to the headquarters of the ruling Democratic Party and changed slogans accusing the government of murder as they joined world-class flank the funeral of a man who was shot his £60,000 job.

dead during the riots earlier in the

Spendthrift puritans Britons are becoming a nation of spendthrift puritans, shying away from conspicuous consumerism, but including in regular treats which end up costing more.

Bath sacks Hall

John Hall, Bath Rugby Club's champion team manager and tormer world-class flanker, was sacked from

Labour under fire on junkets

Christian Wolman Westminster Correspondent

The Tories went on the offensive yesterday, attacking Labour over the revelations of junketing by Labour councillors in Doncaster and suggesting it was typical of Labour waste in

local government. The Independent revealed ves-terday that members of Doncuster's ruling Labour group had been on expensive foreign trips and taken drunken "working lunches" costing £50 per head. The Conservative chairman, Brian Mawhinney said: "Doncaster Labour councillors represent new Labour Party in power. The rest of the country should learn the fesson. It's not what Labour leaders say, its what

danger to this country." attack by pointing out that Labour councils have increased thorisation for the trips. When ey they give to councillors and whether he had been to Poland allowances have gone up in or Sweden, Mr Sellars said he areas controlled by Labour or the Liberal Democrats.

Labour politicians do when they

are in power that represents the

The Tories said Cardiff Council had even set up a working party to examine whether councillors should receive redundancy pay if they are voted out of office.

Labour played down the alfair, merely calling for a copy of ditor containing many of the on unauthorised foreign trips.

criticisms. A spokesman for the party's North and Yorkshire office said: "Once we have gone through the report, we shall then be recommending action to be taken in relation to these councillors involved."

The party was also dithering over the selection process for the Don Valley constituency, with Tony Sellars, one of the councillors who went on trips abroad at the council's expense, emerging as the local favourite.

Mr Sellars, chairman of the Doncaster Labour group, has won the first two nominations by local ward parties for the seat which is vacant because of the death last month of the sitting MP. Martin Redmond.

The Independent yesterday said Mr Sellars had been one of a number of councillors who had taken trips abroad on council taxpayers' money and that The Tories tried to widen the the district auditor was concerned about lack of proper aucould not remember. While publicly the party can-

not rule out Mr Sellars' candidature, it is unlikely he will be placed on the final shortlist drawn up next week by the National Executive Committee. The Independent has learned that Labour Party HQ is planning to block the candidature of the report from the District Au- any councillors who have been

Witch spells trouble for council chiefs

The cats were safely locked Witches, out of casting a spell away but the broomstick was on a controversial council there as the men from the scheme to move a south Loncouncil arrived for their meet- don children's playground to a ing with Kevin the Witch. He had his priestess, Sandie,

a financial adviser from Barclays they did their best to give Southwark council's head of parks a warmwelcome.

Brand. "Afraid I'd sacrifice

My Brand and his assistant, Robin Hayworth, were the unluckiest council officials in Britain yesterday. It was their And there are rumours that task to travel to Hastings in East you're going to cast spells that

Sussex to try to talk Kevin Car-lyon. High Priest of British new site in the borough.

A number of residents, who suspected the council was plan-Bank were in their robes but ning to sell the site to developers, called in Mr Cariyon to stymie the scheme – a threat the Labour-controlled council was "Fisce you didn't come taking seriously.

alones" Kevin said to Colin "You see, the council's concerned because the Bishop of

Greenwich is getting involved now," said Mr Brand, sitting uncomfortably on Kevin's sofa. "Some parents are worried.



and Robin Hayworth yesterday Photograph: Peter Macdiannid could hurt the children. The do his thing to exorcise it." Bishop says that if you go
As it turns out, there isn't a along to cast your spell, then Bishop of Greenwich. Repre-

Woolwich, the Right Rev Col-tiently explaining about the Southwark, the Right Rev Roy Williamson, denied that they were planning a Denis Wheatley-style confrontation. However, the 'Rev Michael

Counsell, vicar of St Augustine's church in Honour Oak, nearest to the proposed new playground, said he had planned to invoke Christian goodness to counteract Kevin's pagan spell - a spell that would involve only wishing local residents success in their campaigning. "I had planned to say prayers

in the church at the same time as he was casting his spell," said Mr Counsell.

But that won't now be neche'll have to go along and, sentatives of the Bishop of essary. After an hour spent

in Buchanan, and the Bishop of new, state-of-the-art playground, with Tarzan swings and a rubber surface on which children will bounce. Mr Brand, a cool man in a crisis, convinced Kevin the Witch that the spell would not be necessary.

"It sounds like a smashing new playground," said Kevin. "In fact, we've decided to cast a new spell instead, wishing the project, and all who use it. great fun and success."

It was clear yesterday that the Church of England wasn't too keen on witches' spells, so what about the new one?

"Well," said Mr Counsell. "if that's what he's going to do, we'd welcome him with open

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Labour victory as Howard retreats on bugging plans

Labour claimed victory last night as the Home Secretary announced a retreat over plans to legalise the "bugging and burgling" of private property by the police.

Michael Howard said in a written House of Commons answer that police would have to apply for prior approval from a government-appointed security commissioner in all but urgent cases. Where the matter was urgent, they would have to apply within 24 hours. The Government was defeated in the House of Lords on the issue after Labour withdrew its previous support for

The Liberal Democrats claimed last night that the measures still did not provide adequate safeguards for the public. The party, which has opposed the measures all along, said there was no adequate definition of the circumstances in which exceptions could be made. The Law Society said the Bill remained flawed.

EU warned on overriding Parliament

The European Union was warned yesterday that it must not attempt to curtail the proposed rights of member parliaments to have a say on EU legislation.

In a report on the current inter-governmental talks dealing with the future of the Union, the Commons European Legislation Committee said a new treaty "must give those who will be affected by legislation time to see it in draft and to have an input into the process ... Its provisions must not be so circumscribed, or diluted by exceptions, as to make them merely cosmetic."

The committee, which continues to complain about "unacceptable delays" in the receipt of texts of draft European Union legislation, said it considered effective parliamentary scrutiny "a touchstone of the [EU's] ... d for the rights of the citizen."

Anthony Bevin Select Committee on European Legislation. The Draft Protocol on the Role of National Parliaments. Thirteenth report, session 1996-97. Commons paper 36-xiii. HMSO; £8.

Wife of NUM leader wins job back



Anne Scargill, the wife of miners! leader Arthur, took on the Co-op esterday - to fight for her job. But rust minutes before an industrial tribunal was due to start, negotiations ended with her announcing that she had won and would be back at work on Monday.

Mrs Scargill lost her £7,000-a-year iob with the Co-operative Society in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, last August. She received a £4,200 redundancy pay-off for her 31 years' service and then discovered three

days later that her former employers were advertising for 50 more staff. Despite being taken on by the Co-op at Rochdale, Mrs Scargili decided to fight for her old job back. "I was not prepared just to take the redundancy mouey and go without a word. I was angry and I wanted my old job back." Mrs Scargill, from Worsbrough, Barnsley, claimed unfair dismissal but discussions before the scheduled hearing in Leeds ended with the announcement that she had won her old job back.

Nigeria pressed over jailed Briton

Diplomatic pressure was growing on Nigeria last night over the detention of a Briton held without charge in the West African state for almost seven weeks. Officials earlier branded as "wholly unacceptable" the detention of 42-year-old Bruce Henderson, who was detained by the authorities in the sensitive Bakassi Peninsula while working on a World Wildlife Fund rain forest project.

A spokesman at the British High Commission confirmed that Mr

Henderson, from Chapel of Garioch, near Invertire in the north of Scotland, is in good health and is being held in Lagos.

Still no verdict in tax fraud trial

The jury in the trial of Michael Allcock, a senior tax inspector accused of taking bribes from wealthy foreign businessmen - including holidays and the services of a prostitute - in return for tax favours, was sent home for a second night without reaching any verdicts yesterday. Mr Allcock, 47, from Colchester, Essex, has denied 11 charges of corruption between 1987 and 1992. The seven women and five men of the jury will return to court today to resume their deliberations.

Priest recovering after stab attack

A Roman Catholic priest was recovering in hospital yesterday after being stabbed in the back at his church. Father Edward Carroll, 63, was stabbed between the shoulder blades as he went to a kitchen to make tea for a man who had come for help to the Sacred Heart Church, Holloway, north

Police said it was thought the man had followed the priest to the kitchen and stabbed him with a kitchen knife. The victim was taken to the Whittington Hospital and later transferred to the Middlesex. His condition was today said to be "serious but stable". Scotland Yard said the man had called at the church, was allowed in and engaged the priest in conversation. After the stabbing, a man telephoned police and later gave himself up

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Epic cinema: Ralph Flennes and Kristin Scott Thomas in Minghella's tale of love and war

Tonic for British film-makers as Oscar snubs Madonna

glittering share of the 1997 Oscars as Hollywood offers one of the most interesting and ecleutic Oscar line-ups in years.

The English Patient, which has alworld, starring the very British Ralph Fiennes, was promised the biggest sweep on Academy Award night, with 12 nominations announced in the traditional predawn ceremony yesterday. The other contenders for the ma-

one film from a major Hollywood studio: Jerry Maguire, the story of a sports agent, starring Tom Cruise The Australian Shine, the off-beat American crime story Faigo, and the very English Secrets and Lies are also in the running.

But another disappointment for Evita, the film version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical, came with Alan Parker failing to make the cut for Best Director. Madonna, in the title role, also found herself shut out, despite being named last month as best actress by the Hollywood foreign press in the Golden Globe awards, traditionally a dry run for Oscar night.

No disappointment though for the British director of Secrets and Lies, Mike Leigh, and actress Brenda Blethlyn, who were nominated for Best Director and Best Actress.

Kenneth Branagh's star-laced ready won rave reviews around the Hamlet did not fare well. But only Branagh, it was said, could have won a nomination for Best Screenplay (based on material previously published or produced) on a four-hour film advertised as Shake-

The English Patient was nomijor prize, Best Picture, featured just nated for Best Picture, Best Actor



(Fiennes), Best Actress (Kristin Scott Thomas), Best Supporting Actress (Juliet Binoche), Best Director and Best Screenplay (Anthony Minghella), art direction, cinematography, sound, dramatic score, costume, and film editing. Fargo and Shine won seven nom-

inations, and Jerry Maguire and Secrets and Lies earned five. The nominations confirmed Hollywood's mounting love affair with the lowerbudget independent film. If anything captured the spirit of this year's choices, it was that Brenda Biethlyn, playing a weak-minded workingclass mum, is in hot competition for... Best Actress slot with France McDorman's pregnant policewoman, in Fago. A thoroughly American Jallie Fargo was a product of British Tim Bevan's Working Title Company.

Prominent also-rans included Trainspotting, the critically acclaimed film about Scottish heroin addicts, which failed to net a single major nomination. And, at the other end of the scale: Independence Day, an a blockbuster "event" film about aliens zapping the world's major cities, barely got a look in.

Tim Comwell, Los Angeles

A 40-year-old man donated five feet of intestine to his triplet brother in a life-saving transplant oper-ation, it emerged yesterday. The successful operation follows the sudden, tragic death of the third triplet, who had initially agreed to be the donor for Phillip Jones, a former heating engineer from Totton, near Southampton.

It is the first time British surgeons have carried out an intestine transplant between identical siblings, and only the seventh such operation on an adult at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Sir Roy Calne, the pioneering surgeon who performed the operation, said yesterday: "This is an extreme example of devotion and love between two brothers who happen to be triplets." He said that intestinal transplants were notoriously difficult, but using organs from identical siblings

Triplets are transplant pioneers minimised the chances of rejection and other complications. The operation was carried out

last September, but news was witheld until doctors were satisfled that Mr Jones was recovering well. He is at home and can eat normally after four years of being fed on an intravenous drip. The donor, his brother Peter, a carpenter, is also well and unlikely to suffer any long-term ill-effects.

Phillip's health problems began four years ago, after he broke his leg while playing football. He developed a blood clot in his abdomen and was unable to digest food. His health deteriorated

rapidly. Tractors decided to attempt a translation.
Yesterday, Peter said: "It was a big decision to take. But at the end of the day, I love my brother and I think anyone in this room would do the same."

Police investigate 'suspicious' death of sitcom actor

An investigation has been launched into the "suspicious" death of 1970s sitcom actor Barry Evans, 52, star of the series, Doctor in the House, and Mind Your Language. His body was found at his home in the village of Claybrooke Magna, near Lutterworth, Leicestershire, on Monday night. He is believed to have died sometime on Sunday.

Mr Evans is thought to have been unemployed and recently worked as a taxi driver. His body was found after police went to his house following the recovery of his white Montego car in the nearby town of Hinckley on Monday night.

Three people were arrested near the spot where the car was found and are being questioned on suspicion of murder. Jason Bennetto

Market forces mean rosy outlook for football

The financial future of English football is brighter than at any time since the late 1940s, according to a statistical analysis of clubs financial performance in the latest issue of the International Review of Applied Economics. Authors Stefan Szymanski and Ron Smith argue that the Taylor Report has forced clubs to invest in facilities.

they would have had no incentive to provide of their own accord.

Between 1974 and 1989 the game made big losses, showing a profit in only six years. But the introduction of market forces via the exposure of a stock market listing – there are now a dozen quoted clubs and another half dozen planning to float - will force them to turn a profit in future. Newcastle would probably not have paid a record £15m for Alan Shearer if it had had to answer to

International Review of Applied Economics, January 1997, Carfax



High street spending bounces back

The fortunes of high street shops improved last month, following the weaker than expected Christmas shopping period, according to a report published yesterday. The value of retail sales in January rose by 4.9 per cent on the same month in 1996, and was a marked improvement on the 4.3 per cent annual increase recorded in December. The British Retail Consortium, which compiled the

December. The British Retail Consortium, which compiled the report, said the figures were "reassuring" as they suggested retail sales would underpin economic growth in 1997.

January's figure, which is measured on a like-for-like basis which compares the same area of selling space, has still not shown a return to the levels of 6 per cent growth recorded last summer. Across the three months between November and January, sales grew by 4.7 per cent, the lowest three-month rate since last spring.

ROADS

Bridges crumble in cash squeeze

Britain's roads and bridges are inadequately funded, leaving much of the network in a poor condition, a report by the all-party Commons Transport Committee said yesterday. The lack of money could lead to bridges having to be closed, which would hit business and industry.

whelming message from the evidence we have received is that spending on national and local road and bridge maintenance tas been insufficient to maintain these important national assets in groot condition," the report concluded. "If bridges are unable to cope with heavy lorries, they will have to be closed or weightlimited in some way. Such measures could isolate many busine

... and there are likely to be many instances where firms will suffer Randeep Ramesh

EMPLOYMENT

Men losing out in job market

There 1 million fewer jobs in Britain than when John Major came to power, with men bearing the brunt of the shump, according to analysis of government figures by the House of Commons library. Statistics published by Ian McCartney, Labour employment spokesman, in advance of today's official jobless figures, show that the workforce in employment has dropped from 26,175,000 to 25,178,000. The number of men in work has declined from 14,622,000 to 13,562,000, but the number of women with jobs rose marginally from 11,553,000 to 11,616,000. Barrie Clement

ENVIRONMENT

Counting cost of tanker disaster

The short-term environmental impact of the Sea Empress disaster in Wales was considerable and could have been even worse, according to a report yesterday from the committee set up by the Government to assess the damage.

At least 5,000 birds died, including a quarter of an 8,000 strong At least 5,000 birds died, including a quarter of an opportunition flock of sea ducks, in the disaster a year ago this week. Some 2 km of coastline were affected by Britain's third largest maritan spillage, after the Torrey Canyon in 1967 and the Braer four years. It is now estimated that more than 3,000 tonnes of crude was washed up on beaches.

Roger Do



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996



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lunuary 1997, Carfax Diane Coyle

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The family who killed their mother

Jonathan Foster

Eve Howells demanded regular massage from Glenn, her teenage son, sitting naked in the bedroom as the boy squirmed. averting his eyes from her "private parts". She made both her sons clean the dirt from her toenails, spat abuse at them, beat them, and tied them to the kitchen table. She threatened to burn their teddy bears.

She blamed Glenn for the death of her first-born, and sat naked on the toilet when he showered. She abused him "on a global scale", a clinical psychologist told Leeds Crown Court., Glenn was 15 when he smashed his mother's skull with the sharp and blunt ends of the hammer. Something had gone in his head, he told the court. Blood hit the ceiling, and then Glenn felt her pulse. "I want-ed my mum back." he said. She used to call him "a fat fucker".

Yesterday Mrs Howell's husband, husband David, and two teenage sons, Glenn, now 17 and John, now 16, were convicted of her murder by a jury. Mrs Howells, 48, died as the cul-mination of a plot hatched by the three to rid them of the source of persistent sexual, physical and emotional abuse.

The judge, Mr Justice Alliott, will today pass sentences of life imprisonment on Mr Howells and indefinite detentions on Glenn and John. But he said he wanted to give lawyers additional time to prepare addresses which may influence his



darts match. But forensic evi-

dence and police suspicions, aroused by the trio's absence of

grief, led to the prosecutions.

It was almost a paradoxical

killing, the violent member of

"the family from hell" in the





during a burglary while their fa-ther was safe in the alibi of a pub to a colleague. She was "very, ther was safe in the alibi of a pub very disturbed", she said. very disturbed", she said. She was "Belsen thin. She said she had cancer, but there was little wrong with her body. She had a string of psychoso-matic disorders, her doctor said. He put her on Valium and sleeping tablets.

She "swiped" an inheritance morgue, her victims in the dock. Mrs Howells taught at a bequeathed to her father, and Huddersfield secondary school. amassed a £155,000 personal She terrified pupils, according fortune. Her salary was saved,

and household expenses met from her husband's wages. David Howells drank too much: he was cuckolded by his best friend, frightened of his wife. and too weak to heed the boys' advice to get divorced.

They lived at "Garth Edge". a bungalow with ity around the replacement windows, it stands on a middle-class street protected by privet and sleeping policemen, but Mrs Howells was far from suburban discreet. One neighbour abandoned sitting in his garden because of her cursing, another remembered bath-time for the children. "The screams that used to come out were like someone was murdering them", the court heard.

drowning them." John was his mother's favourite. He was not spared abuse, but enjoyed privileges,

sweets when he did the pedicure and a proper tea when she made Glenn do with bread and jam. John was "overly compliant", social workers said. John said: "She was always a bitch ... she treated us like dirt."
At the age of 5, John would

open as many as 18 tins of food "It was almost as though she was when he came home from school, take a spoonful from each, then conceal them. He would urinate in the litter bin,

Photographs: Ross Pany

and break toys. A psychiatrist said he was young to be acting like that, and was probably rebelling against her discipline.

Three days after they es-caped her discipline by murder, the boys went into town to celebrate their liberation. They had

their cars pierced.

Jurors heard conversations between the three, "bugged" at a police station on the authority of an assistant chief constable. Forensic evidence had put the boys by their mother when the blood flew. David Howells had behaved suspiciously, any feelings of bereavement subor-

dinated to a thirst for alc. He told the boys to stick to the story, bluff if out. "If you two break, then I'm in as well."

But the enduring impression of the tapes was Glenn's misery. "Got no dad any more ... got no mum and dad ... want me mum." he sobbed.

The boys made confessions but told different stories. David Howells stuck to his; he found out what the boys had done, never condoned it, but tried to contrive a plausible cover-up.

John said his father joined the plotting "a little bit". John's admissions consisted of "wicked lies", his father said. Glenn said his father knew nothing.

Under cross-examination, Glenn was asked: "Would you have killed your mother without the approval of your father, depriving him of a wife?" "She deprived me of my life," Glenn

British Rail: The end.

(Farewell to age of steam and curly sandwiches)

Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

Rail. The end of the line came yesterday after the Government announced that the last trainset in public hands was to be given to coach and rail giant

National Express. The sale of Regional Rail-ways Central - whose network stretches from Wales to Norwich -will put the nation's vast passenger rail network in private

British Rail was nationalised in 1948 by the Atlee government. But its card was marked in the 1960s by Dr Richard Beeching, BR's chairman, who considered it a business not a social service. Since then poor investment - by both Labour and Tory governments - saw the once-proud network become the butt of commuter jokes.

British Rail's ride to the stock market was remarkably quick. Agreements on the preders have pleted in just over a year. The new owners of the last seven franchises were revealed in just over a fortnight. The impending election quickened the pace.

recommendations for minimum

periods of detention. "Although

The boys and their father

planned various plots before

Glenn was inspired by the

Crimewatch programme to take

a hammer to his mother at their

Huddersfield, West Yorkshire,

I entirely endorse the verdicts. I don't know the whole truth"

the judge said.

The sale of the Central franchise to National Express makes the bus group the largest operators of trains in Britain. Privatisation will see Scottish trains run by National Express, an English coach company, and the largest chunk of British Rail in the hands of a French

company, Connex. Franchising has turned the unified national railway network into a disorganised patchwork of competing companies. This will see network benefits like connecting services fade away replaced by cost cutting and poor service quality, said

Jonathan Bray, campaigner

with Save Our Railways, a group set up to halt the sell-off. For some observers, however, the railways should never have left private hands. They point out that entrepreneurs gave birth to the Victorian rail renaissance. The first railway

ed in 1825 when George Stephenson's steam locomo-nive graced The Stockton & Darlington railway line,

The Victorian railways were the engine of progress in 1800s. But the past has lessons for today's new owners. As competition intensified between private firms, many went bust. open to the general public start-

The rise of the railways was cut short by the motor car in the 1920s. This saw the plethora of smaller companies bought up by larger rail firms. In 1923, only four companies were left -Southern, London North Eastern, Great Western and Lon-

don, Midland, Scottish. Critics argue that the present

structure has created a new series of rail barons prepared to cut services should passengers desert the railways. Virgin's Richard Branson owns most of the Intercity services, including the 700 miles of West Coast mainline. Anti-privatisation campaigners say that Stage-

coach, a bus firm which won one

of the largest rail franchises, has company, South West Trains, was forced to cancel hundreds of trains this week.

However, this pales into insignificance when one remembers George Hudson - the last "railway king". In 1844, he controlled more than 1,000 miles of

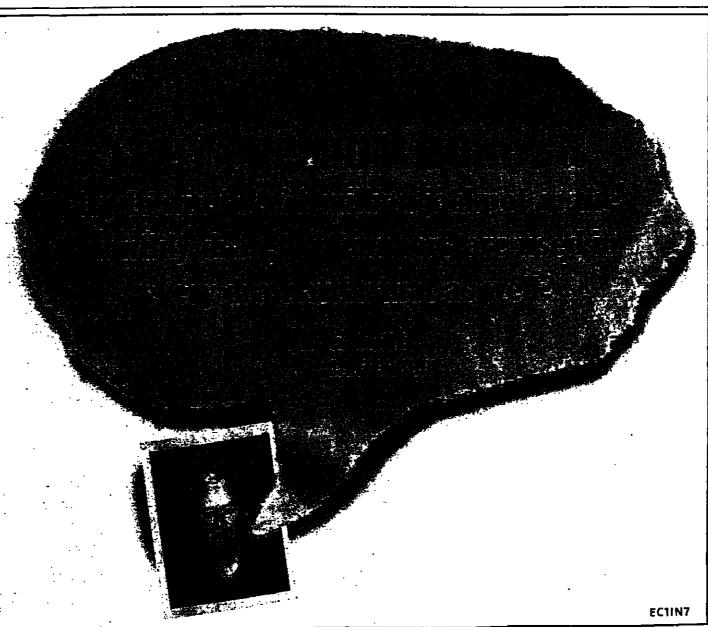
railway. His fall was rapid after provided a "poor" service. Its investors found he had paid more than £290,000 in share dividends to line his own pockets. Despite its fall, British Rail is will have the last laugh. It can only be finally killed by an Act

of Parliament - an unlikely event before the election. South West fined, page 16





HELPING YOU MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SAVINGS AND **INVESTMENTS**







turbines star in end of the pier show at

Nicholas Schoon **Environment Correspondent**

Clacton-on-Sea is to get a new end-of-the-pier show. The world's largest offshore wind farm, and Britain's first, is to be out to sea, where the winds are planted on a sandbank four stronger and less turbulent and miles off the Essex coast.

The Government has given £35m project with its 40 huge turbines by ordaining 15 years likely to be far fewer complaints

the electricity it will generate, thus making the wind farm commercially viable.

Advocates of wind power have long been urging a move can produce extra power. Offshore developments are more its blessing to the pioneering expensive to install than their onshore counterparts but there are

of guaranteed stable prices for about wind farms ruining the scenery, and about noise.

The turbines, 230ft tall from sea level to the tips of their topmost blade, will generate enough electricity for a town of 70,000 people. They will be clearly visible from the Essex seaside towns of Clacton and Frinton. But they will be sufficiently distant and dispersed to not dominate the horizon. The construction of the tur-

The company's development manager, Englishman Christopher Glen, said he hoped up to 50 per cent of the turbines would be made in Britain.

"It's a flagship project," he

said. "You get smoother, stead-

ier winds offshore and it's be-

coming increasingly difficult to

will be carried out by a Dutch new wind farms on land." company, Windmaster, it is The United Kingdom has the biggest "wind resource" in hoped by the end of next year.

Europe, but Germany, Denmark and Holland produce more electricity from this source than Britain. There are now 34 onshore wind farms in the UK. providing enough electricity for a city the size of Cardiff. The cost of their power has been falling steadily and is now close to com-

get planning permission for

peting with coal and gas fired ower stations.

Last week, the Government announced that a further 65 wind turbine projects would qualify for guaranteed, stable prices. This means that all electricity consumers pay a small subsidy above the free-market price for power. This system is used to encourage the development of non-polluting, renewable energy sources.

named the successful projects or informed their backers but The Independent has learnt that they include two offshore wind farms - at Clacton and a much smaller one, with just two turbines,

off Blyth, Northumberland. Wind turbines at sea do not need planning permission from local councils, and yesterday Tendring council - which covers Clacton and Frinton - knew

The Government has not yet nothing about the project. Mr Glen said local people and the council would be kept fully in-

> formed and their views sought. But the project will have to get other government permissions to fishing. And it will have to reach agreement with the Crown Es-The money will go to the state.

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Drug-testing in jails raises fears. of heroin abuse

One of the country's leading both for punishment and treatdrug addiction centres has been asked by the Prison Service to investigate "drug switching" by prisoners from cannabis to heroin to beat mandatory couraged some prisoners to switch from cannahis to opiates.

drugs tests.

Despite assertions by Between March and ScpMichael Howard, the Home tember last year, the number of Secretary, that the random testsuccess, the service gave the go-ahead for the study by the National Addiction Centre at the Maudsley Hospital, south London, earlier this mouth.

It follows repeated claims that inmates are turning to hard drugs such as heroin or crack cocaine which remains deonly one to three days, compared to 20 to 28 days for

The tests were introduced in eight pilot establishments in February 1995 and later ex-tended to all jails. The Prison Service aims to complete 60,000 tests a year, either randomly or

Service conference yesterday

creasingly effective deterrent, as port fears that prisoners are well as identifying drug users

problem, the tests have en-

Mr Howard told the Prison

ment?

randomly selected prisoners

tectable in the bloodstream for Medical Research Council Biostatistics Unit, and Graham Burd, of the Churchill Hospitai, Oxford, suggested that test-ing had "zero effectiveness in countering addiction and dis-order". And with spending run-ning at £16,000-£22,000 a month for a 500-prisoner jail,

> habilitation programme. Case studies obtained by the

But latest results suggest that far from stamping out the drugs

who tested positive for cannabis fell from 25.97 per cent to 19.74 per cent, while those testing positive for opiates rose from 5.01 per cent to 6.35 per cent. Tests based on suspicion during the same period saw a similar reduction for cannabis and a rise for opiates. A study by Sheila Gore, of the

that of a drug reduction and re-

that he believed mandatory National Association of Protesting would become "an in-bation Officers (Napo) sup-

drug switching to avoid detection. In one case, a 31-year-old at HMP Erlestoke was serving two years for drug-related offences. He failed a random test

last autumn and was given the an additional 14 days. He then switched to smoking heroin to avoid further positive tests. He told his parole officer that this A 26-year-old remanded at Durham on charges of grievous

bodily harm and affray was a regular cannabis user and switched to smoking heroin to beat the tests. He said heroin was as easy to obtain as cannabis. A 24-year-old from the South-west who was sentenced to three years for various bur-

glaries switched from cannabis to heroin and became a heavy user. He claimed his habit was developed while he was in HMP Shepton Mailet. Harry Fletcher, Napo assistant general secretary, said:

"The implications of the switch "An increase in heroin de-pendency means an increase in crime. Needle-sharing is a highrisk activity and drug attests worsens control problems."

Segers told lies to save football career

The former Wimbledon goal-keeper, Hans Segers, yesterday admitted having cheated and admitted having cheated and lied, but insisted he had never

thrown a football match. The former player, accused of being part of a plot to rig Premier League games, told Winchester Crown Court that he had lied to his wife and the police and had cheated the taxlice and had cheated the tax-man. But he denied "throwing" any matches including his side's game at Everton in May 1994, when the Merseyside team won 3-2 to stay in top flight football. Dutch-born Mr Segers, 35, the former Wimbledon and As-ton Villa striker. John Fasham.

ton Villa striker, John Fashanu, 34, the former Southampton and Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar. 39, and a Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim, 31, all deny con-spiracy to give and accept corrupt payments. All four also deny being part of an alleged plot to influence the outcome of matches for the benefit of a Far East betting syndicate.

Throughout a day in the witness box, Mr Segers repeatedly said he had never thrown a match, or been asked to. At one point he was in tears as he explained why he had lied to po-

ing Football Association rules by forecasting match results for Mr Lim. Mr Segers has told the court he was forecasting Dutch matches and helping with information on some Eng-lish matches for Mr Lim, who passed tips to a wealthy Indonesian benefactor who

"I thought everything was going to be taken away from me, my livelihood," Mr Segers said.

liked betting on games.

"Football was everything I had got. I wake up with football."
That was why he had lied. Mr Segers agreed with David Calvert Smith, for the prosecution that he had lied to his cution, that he had lied to his wife, Astrid, in the early 1990s.

The court has heard that there was an article in a newspaper at that time exposing a sexual relationship Mr Segers was having. He said his wife gave him an ultimatum that if it happened again he would be packing his suitcase. Mr Calvert Smith said: "Having been shown a yellow card by your wife, you offended again? You had an affair with somebody

else?" Mr Segets replied: "Yes. I did." He agreed that he had to tell lies about where he was. and get people to cover for him and he covered for Mr Fashanu

when he had similar problems.
When asked if he had deliberately failed to declare how much he was earning to their Inland Revenue, Mr Segers replied: "It was just very fool-ish of me."

Asked how much income he failed to declare, Mr Seges said:
"It's difficult to say."

Mr Segers has told the court that some of the money he paid into a Swiss bank account was profits from a tie business, given to him in cash by his Dutchbased partner to save United

Kingdom tax.
The Crown claims it has linked payments of £104,000 into the account to Wimbledon matches allegedly targeted by

the syndicate. Mr Segers also confirmed he had made up stories when interviewed by police, such as that he did not know Mr Lim, hard partly from car crime in The Netherlands as a technique.

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is small wonder that the Prime Minister runs so far ahead of his party in popular estimation. With a few notable exceptions, he is not only seems nicer than most of his colleagues but funnier too, There is a part of John Major's psyche that sips rum-punches in calm, warm lands - whereas his desperate, fractious friends live year round in a region of cold winds and barren hills, where dog eats dog.

The curs were certainly running during defence question-time. That keen-snouted whippet, Nigel Evans (Con, Ribble Valley) told the House that his part of Lancashire (which is down to make the fins, or the belly, of the Eurofighter) had not forgotten the cancellation of the TSR2 by Harold Wilson, which had "cost hundreds of

SCORING THE EXCHANGES

REAIR'S ATTACK

ing Skirmer: "He's going to say he's

ISPT 55, and I'm fluiding the figures."

Skinner was the only one not to laugh.

"I hope he smales before he's 66," Ma-

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

The effects of othernical weepons testing in England (Ken Livingstone, Lab, Been

The importance of this defence industry for jobs, Prill Gallie (C, Ayr):

Pensioners' incomes and Dentils Skinner's 65th birthday (Tim Dentila, C, Stock-ton South)

Blair asked whether Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell should not be conceptrating on the "tages and manifest crisis" in the NHS, rether then devolution. Major replied that Robin Cook, when shadow Health Secretary, lead at one point devolution.

chael Portillo and the Rayal Yacht (Alan Simpson, Lab, Nothinghern South)

Major pointed out Stair's initiating habit of using pre-prepared soundbites. Unfortunately be went on to drop a favorite soundbite of his about about using the NUS as a political "football". Beyond the

Blair pointed cut Major's initiating habit of agreeing a question with another question. However, if any question can be guaranteed to spack a round of non-answers and statistics awapping at Classican Time, it is one about the NHS, which he didy award.

in his old age.

With reference to the Royal Yacht affair Simpson policing has that Sir Edward Hearth Mail distribed the cooling of Profitio as "ner fancourable", He asked the Prime Minister to "admit that yet again he has been holist by his own Portfor".

thousands of jobs in the Preston area" So was not Labour's proposed defence review a pile of old knob? Having delivered himself of this abuse of question-time, a silly exaggeration and piece of chronic wish-fulfilment all at the same time. Mr Evans subsided with an artful imitation of genuine anger on his pinched features.

All who were involved - or listening were exhausted by this kind of idiocy by the time we got to Prime Minister's questions. Those who believe (like Douglas Hurd) that all is basically well at Parliament, should examine a copy of yesterday's Hansard and see for themselves with what contempt the concept of ministerial accountability is treated by the ruling party.

Aaronovitch

House game of baiting the Beast for telling the truth

ceased to have any function other than being a piece of partisan theatre. Only the most unbiddable or bolshy backbenchers ask any question other than the one that the whips have written out for them. And usually these are either Labour quips aiming to expose

dither, or Tory plants trying to suggest danger.

But someone in the PM's office had been doing their homework. The under-secretary with responsibility for sending out cards on the occasion of birthdays had noticed that yesterday was the 65th

anniversary of the birth of the Beast of Bolsover, Dennis Skinner, Clever chaps at No 10 sat around and wrote out a little question for one of the reliable backbenchers to ask, and an amusing series of responses for the PM to come back with.

So, the Blair-Major ritual being done, Tim Devlin (Stockton S) arose to ask the PM to reflect upon the acquisition of pensioner status by the honourable member. The House roared, some sang Happy Birthday Dear Be-ast, Mr Major delivered his lines well and warmly. But what of Dennis! He scowled

furiously and refused to smile. Perhaps he knows that little is more nauseating than his adoption as tame ranting revolutionary by an utterly unfrightened House. Or maybe he is just vain enough not to want his advanced age discussed

publicly. But the more he secowled, the funnier everyone thought it all was. "I hope he smiles before he's 66". Major ked, with spot-on comic timing.

Floating convention, Speaker Betty Boothroyd called an anger-ruddy Skinner to reply. And Dennis, gurning like an attenuated Les Dawson - celebrated his 65th in the same way he probably marked his 5th - with a disconnected rant about the appalling Tories and their leader who had "come from the belly of the banking establishment", given us Black Wednesday and doubled the national debt.

Oh, how we all laughed! For though every word that Skinner said was true. we all knew there was sod-all that anybody (apart from the nice Mr Major) could do about it.

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1987 • THE INDEPEN

formed and their views.
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Seger also continued made up stories when it and the molecular state of the r spake to Fishall and one in the account on from car crime in riancis as a tecnages.

PM's Qs, of course, has long since

Dorrell rebuked by Major in devolution row

Fran Abrams and Colin Brown

John Major yesterday issued a humiliating rebuke to his Sec-retary of State for Health after a series of cabinet splits over the issue of Scottish devolution.

In a move that will be widely interpreted as the latest skirmish in the Conservative Party leadership battle, the Prime Minister publicly sacked Stephen Dorrell from an extra role on the constitution.

The Prime Minister used a press conference on education to claim that Mr Dorrell had never even held the campaigning post at all The Health Secretary had

Tory government would abolish a Scottish parliament set up by Labour – a claim which was then refuted by the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth. Mr Major said yesterday that it was he, and not Mr Dorrell.

Langsions asked whether Major and seed the letter he recised from the Defence Secretary, admittig them had been "biological warriars experiments conducted on the civilian populations in London and along the South Coast," and would Major set up an interpendent inquiry? Major said the had not seen the latter. icy on devolution. Responsibility for the constitution rests with the Prime John Whittingtale IC. South Colchester and Maidon) asked Major to confirm that he did not intend to abidish generate schools. It is were toosible, the generalised Major at each risk challenging question. Does he not again that they would behave in government, you only have to look at Labour in local governments. Minister and the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales," he said. "That has always been the case and it remains the case.

"As Michael Forsyth has said for a long time, if you have an omelette like that, it isn't an omelette that can be readily un-

scrambled. It is not the first time that Mr Dorrell has been accused of straying from his brief in the interests of pursuing his leadership ambitions.

In January, he caused a similar furore when he suggested that Britain's relationship with the European Union should be renegotiated.
Mr Dorrell privately sought to limit the damage, which

could dent his long-term ambitions for the Tory leadership, telling friends that he would still speak on constitutional issues. He faced further embarrassment later in the House of

Commons, when he announced told a newspaper that a future a retreat on the NHS Primary Care Bill. Labour's health spokesman, Chris Smith, accused him of

"backtracking" twice in two days. "It is the Secretary of State's week for backtracking," he said. "He spent most of yesterday trying unsuccessfully to extricate himself from the hole who was in overall charge of polthat he has injudiciously planted himself in with Scottish devolution. Now he has climbed down over a central feature of

> Mr Dorrell announced, as The Independent reported yesterday, that he would table an amendment to the Bill to prevent private companies such as he said.

supermarkets hiring family doctors to open surgeries.

Yesterday's manocuvrings indicated a new intensity of election campaigning. Two new planned policy changes suggested that the Government was anxious not to let Labour gain the miniative.

In Parliament, Mr Major indicated that he was prepared to look at the possibility of making Holocaust denial illegal, and revealed that he was planning a meeting with the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, followed Labour proposals to force disclosure of sex offences to schools and other agencies with his own proposals to let residents know when a sex offender moves into their neighbourhood.

Last night, Labour's head of election strategy, Peter Mandelson, accused the Conservatives of "jackdaw tendencies". Several Labour initiatives on education had been copied, he said, along with a commitment to flexible pensions, plans to help lone parents back to work and proposals to outlaw stalking. "Bereft of their own ideas

and out of touch with the public's mood, the Tories have decided to launch a wholesale raid on new Labour's policies."



Trade talk: President Alberto Fujimori of Peru visiting Baroness Thatcher's Belgravia offices yesterday while in London for the Latin America trade forum Photograph: John

Clouds still hover over the Conservatives in Wirral

Fears about the state of the NHS and education are persuading Tories to switch to Labour

Michael Streeter

Labour are on course for a spec-tacular by-election victory in Wirral South as canvassing yesterday showed that the early trend of disgruntled Conserva-tive voters switching to Labour seems to be continuing. At the centre of this swing is

the barometer ward of Bebington, a mixed residential and industrial area in the north of the constituency. It was once a safe Tory area but in the last three years Labour has won three council seats in local elections and Bebington is now an important battleground for the two main parties. Many people in the area are what politicians call the "aspirant" classes: people who have moved from Liverpool or Eliesmere Port for a better standard of living, schools

Yesterday under a grey cloudy sky the mood in Village Road, Bebington, reflected dismal prospects for the Conservatives and their 8,183 majority. Claire Francis, 24, a tour operator, voted Conservative in 1992 but will now vote for Labour's candidate Ben Chapman. Her reasons echo the views of many people inter-viewed by The Independent.

"It's all about the state of the health service. From what I have seen it's time for a change," he said.

She believes that Tony Blair is charismatic, thinks John Major has lost the plot and while accepting that many people, in-cluding heiself, are fed-up with politicians, she says a new gov-ernment is essential. "Otherwise I will be in despair," she said.

This desire for change is not confined to the young. A retired newsagent George Thompson, 67, has always voted Conserv-ative - until now. He cites pay in the NHS and education but is also tired of the "sleaze" surrounding the government and its attitude of "giving jobs for the



Social harmony: Workers and residents together in a memorial to William Lever, the philanthropist founder of Port Sunlight in the Wirral South seat Photograph: David Rose

boys". His fears about what a Labour government might do in power have been allayed by the party's reforms. "Tony Blair is much more in the middle now, but I would not have voted for

Neil Kinnock." Mr Thompson's disenchantment reflects the findings of an opinion poll at the weekend which suggested that Labour could win a comfortable majority on 27 February. But as the poll also hinted he is not so sure who to vote for in the general election - though he will probably still opt for Labour.

Many Tories have still to

make up their mind. Brian Sumner, 49, a clerk, is con-cerned about the NHS, and also law and order. "The health service seems to be deteriorating and it appears more dangerous as far as policing is concerned.

I fear that the fabric of society is beginning to crumble at the

dges," he says. But as a new homeowner, Mr

fought the campaign by trying to localise national issues and

Summer is unsure what a change of government might bring. "Is the cost of living going to rise under a Labour government? Will interest rates go up? I just don't know who to believe." The Conservatives have

that worry you?" he asked her. After a brief conversation the canvasser left telling her: "You should stay indoors more and watch more TV." Mrs Owens said: "I was quite surprised by the attitude. He was quite rude." Though the strategy has pro-voked a further "clarification" of Labour's stance on selective

schools and despite claims by the Conservative candidate Les Byrom that the message is get-ting through. The Independent found little evidence that the rammar school debate is influencing votes - though many voters were worried about the general standard of education. One Tory supporter who asked not to be named said it would not decide her vote. What worries me is John Ma-

in particular have hammered now feels they have gone too far aggressively on the likely fate of over privatisation and sees grammar schools in the con-Labour as a party of moderation and Conservative values -with a small c. The unions stituency under a Labour government. Helen Owen, 35, a Labour voter, said grammar schools were the first issue needed taming but the Tories are now out of touch. They call themselves Conservatives but raised at her door by a Tory canthey are the radicals." vasser, who said the schools' fate would be uncertain under a Blair administration. "Doesn't

There is a feeling among Labour voters that the tide is turning their way and claim that friends and family are helping switch votes. Andrew McGuffie 52, an insurance agent, said: "My father-in-law has always voted Conservative. He is now talking about voting Labour."

Yet many Conservatives are finding it hard to contemplate changing sides despite their anger at the party. Ivor and Helen Pierce said they would "grudgingly" vote for John Major again even though they did not much like him. They said they did not trust Tony Blair.

Such die-hard sentiments are the reason why Labour activists caution against too much optimism in a seat which does not feature in their list of "mustwin" target constituencies for the general election. But in their more sanguine moments they are hoping that the voters of Bebington might just swing jor. He is just a puppet."
Roy Clarke, 51, an engineer,
once voted Conservative but

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news

Puritan Britons become nation of secret bingers

Glenda Cooper Consumer Affairs Correspondent

We are becoming a nation of spendthrift puritans, shying away from conspicuous consumerism but indulging in regular treats which end up costing us more, according to

After tightening their purse strings in the early 1990s, when the recession bit, people have started to spend beyond their means, the market analyst

Mintel said yesterday.

While personal disposable income has increased by 8.8 per cent since 1992, consumer expenditure has improved by 10.5 per cent. But concerns over job ecurity and the lack of the feelgood factor have led to a dripfeed approach to spending on smaller indulgent items, such as chocolate, takeaway meals, magazines and cinema tickets.

We now spend almost as great a percentage of our income on gambling, due to the National Lottery, as we do on school fees, including parental contribution to student grants

Domestic & garden help Educational fees

Other vehicles

insurance

House purchase

Sickness & accident

Medical insurance

Gambling (losses) Recorded music &

musical instruments

up by 53 per cent over the past five years, convenience food has

increased by 32 per cent and male tolletries by 37 per cent.

The British Lifestyles report calls the phenomenon "the hidden recovery". It reports that credit is fuelling what is proceeded as a "mini hour." regarded as a "mini-boom". helped by the ease of pay-later terms in the high street.

But the feel-good factor still eludes Britons. Few consumers feel they are becoming more af-fluent, for which the report thinks there are several reasons.

Low inflation means that while wages may have risen in real terms, consumers, used to big absolute increases, do not regard them as high enough to go on a spending spree.

Continuing worries about job security discourage consumers from committing them-selves to buying items which require large amounts of money, but buy indulgence products instead as a reward for being financially prudent, or to cheer themselves up after a bad day

They shrink from the kind of

% change

marked the Eighties' boom.

Home ownership is also seen as a powerful arbiter of how people view their own personal affluence.

A decade ago home owner-ship accounted for 40 per cent of net personal wealth. Today the figure is nearer 25 per cent. This is due to a higher proportion of money being tied up in assets such as life assurance and pension funds. They now account for onethird of all personal wealth. As a result, most people do not feel as "well off" as in the

The biggest concern for 20- to 34-year-olds is money limiting their lifestyle, though for 35- to 54-year-olds this is superseded by health.

Areas that are likely to see good rates of growth in the long term included domestic help and garden help, which have grown 294 per cent over the past 10 years, medical insurance, which is up by 190 per cent, and education - up 293 per cent.

Men are having to adapt to a changing society where more people live alone instead of moving from the parental home to the marital home. Only 12 per cent of men do not usually shop for groceries. But they are still more disorganised as they depend on the availability of convenience stores which are open long hours.

Men are also more likely to eat takeaways because they cannot be bothered to cook, and convenience foods now account for a quarter of in-home food sales. People are also eating out more with 25 per cent claiming

Timeless: Tamara Beckwith (left) and Christina Estrada model Christian Dior creations

to eat out regularly.

Timeless: Tamara Beckwith (left) and Christina Estrada model Christian Dior creations

British Lifestyles 1997: £995; from 1947 at the Imperial War Museum, south London, where an exhibition opens today from Mintel on 0171 606 6000. to mark the 50th anniversary of Dior's post-war 'New Look' Photograph: Absolute/Vincente

Working lives bring back the latchkey kids

Where we spend our spare cash

% of

Britain is producing a large new generation of "latchkey" children. According to a na-tional survey, 350,000 five-to-11year-olds, or 9 per cent of pri-mary-school children, go home to an empty house and watch

The conclusions, published yesterday, are from a report by the Kids' Clubs Network, a voluntary group which organises af-ter-school childcare. The findings are described as a "situation of unease", with children "becoming more isolated" and tempted into crime through boredom and lack of amenities".

Most parents questioned for the report agreed the life of a latchkey child was "lonely and potentially dangerous", with a third of all parents worried about what happened to their child after school hours.

With 70 per cent of mothers with primary-school children working, the report says that in addition to the growth of latchkey kids, a quarter of all primary-school children now go to and from school without adult supervision.

Coming after recent research on the negative effects of working parents on children's edufindings are likely to add to the DAILY POEM

By Siobhan Campbell

Yet still you cream me

I cannot go, you'd follow if I leave.

as they want to close?

the little scrape of hate

edging the high notes

I can hear

The Constant Welcome

The constant welcome floors me. I live here. I have arrived.

I do not fight, you'd twist my words to please.

do you know what I can hear

when your eyes are widening

debate on childcare. At a conference in London yesterday to launch the latest research, the director of Kids Clubs Network, Anne Longfield, said: "We can't on the one hand encourage parents to take up employment and training and yet ignore the lack of after-school uildcare provision."

The 9 per cent figure comes from research which said 6 per cent of children were "definitely left alone" but added that the true figure, given parents who masked the situation, pushed it up to 9 per cent.
At the conference, Labour's

education spokesman, David Blunkett, called for the "development of a national network of after-school clubs to ensure that all children are cared for in a safe and stimulating environment at the end of the school day". Mr Blunkett widened Tony Blair's recent call for homework centres by saying that "after-school clubs, together with after-school sport and leisure, are the antidote to the latchkey kid waiting in an

empty house ... Although Labour has said it intends to make after-school care a priority, expanding the voluntary sector in conjunction with the Government, no spebeen given.

Pop culture to be held in storage

pop culture being produced. Under proposals made pub-

lic yesterday, Spice Girls CDs, television sitcoms and CD-Rom games would be ranked alongside Jane Austen and the classics of English literature by a legal obligation that they be stored for posterity.

At present there is a legal requirement that every new book be deposited with the British Library. But there is no obligation on record companies,

plosion in electronic information, admitting it would be necessary to build massive storage spaces.

National heritage minister Iain Sproat regretted that some early episodes of Dad's Army had been lost because of the lack of a legal requirement to keep them. He had no problems with the work of the Sex Pistols being stored for posterity.
"Our descendants should be

exposed to the Sex Pistols," he said. "All these things should be

ers and commercial television important looking at the soci-The Government is planning ucts. Yesterday the Govern- today. The other reason why we massive new warehouses to ment signalled its intention to must store Oasis, or Blur, or the storage of pop records and store every piece of electronic change this because of the ex-Spice Girls, is for the pleasure CD-Roms. Mr Sproat quesof future generations, who will gain entertainment and instruction by hearing or watching what we enjoy today."

Even one-hit wonders should have their one album legally deposited, he said: "The reason why a one-hit wonder was a success, but never a success hereafter, would be of interest to future sociologists."

He cited the example of the poet Robert Herrick, who was not widely read or appreciated

CD-Rom producers, film mak- kept, because it's extremely for 200 years after his death. "Who are we to say something channels to deposit their prod- ology of the United Kingdom is rubbish?" Mr Sproat asked. While he advocated the mass

> tioned whether too many books were being kept. "We might want to ask if the British Library should be keeping every new edition of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice," he said.

At present, there are voluntary arrangements for the deposit of films, videos and sound recordings. All BBC output is archived, but only about 30 per cent of the output of commer-

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Youths

This poem comes from Making for Planet Alice: New Women Poets, edited by Manra Dooley (Bloodaxe, £8.95): an anthology of 30 poets who all published their first collections during the 1990s, including Mimi Khalvati, Jackie Kay, Sophie Hannah, Alice Oswald, Kate Clanchy and Lavinia Greenlaw. "The Constant Welcome" first appeared last year in Siobhan Campbell's book The Permanent Wave (Blackstaff Press).

A-levels remain on the gold standard

عكذا من الاجل

Broader and better | exam as sixth-form study is diversified

Sixth-formers will be able 10 study for broader and better A levels from next year, but this year's 18-year-olds can be confident that the standard of their exams is as high as ever.

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, yesterday announced measures to strengthen the GSCE A-level exam as inspectors reported that its standard has stood the test of time.

From next year, the AS-level exam syllabus, pitched half way between GCSE and A-level, will be revamped to encourage pupils to study more subjects in the sixth form. Consultation will begin on a new ASlevel in communication, numeracy and information

technology.

There will also be a voluntary National Advanced Diploma involving at least four different areas of study, including either maths or science. Students who wish to acquire the diploma will have to demonstrate their knowledge of core skills.

A-level syllabuses will change to make them more rigorous, Mrs Shephard said. There will be more British history, more emphasis on pre-1900 English literature and on knowledge of grammar and syntax in modern languages. English language exams will also concentrate more on grammar and all candidates will have to take a calculator-free paper in maths.

The number of exam boards will be reduced, probably to three, which will offer both academic and vocational qualifications.

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Mrs Shephard said key skills were an essential element of guaranteemg standards: "Employers want the qualifications system to be simplified, comprehensible and to include key skills, as a measure of

employability," she said.
A report by the schools inspection watchdog Ofsted gave a generally clean bill of health to A-levels, countering tradi-tionalists allegations of decline

for the second time in two months.

Despite claims that the A-level gold standard has been debased by "grade inflation", the study found standards were consistent over time and between exam boards, It said syllabuses were generally well organised, procedures were thorough and assessment was

The report came just two months after a joint report from Ofsted and the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority found no evidence of any overall fall in standards over the past 22 years. The study published yesterday looked at the standards and quality of A-levels and AS-levels in seven subiects, based on a two-year inspection in England and Wales.

Inspectors analysed syllabuses, exam papers and marking schemes and scrutinised more than 2,000 scripts for 1994-6 and found a "high level of consistency" over the three

They also found that a new code of practice introduced in 1993 had brought exam boards more closely into line.

However, the report calls for more formal measures to be put in place to ensure standards stay steady. It recommends more systematic procedures to make sure A-levels on the same subject from different boards are comparable and to guarantee standards over long periods. The inspectors found modu-

lar syllabuses, which put less emphasis on one final exam, had boosted the enthusiasm of students. However, they warned exam boards to take care not to let modular exams get in the way of other A-level courses or schools' general operation. The inspectors' report acknowledged the difficulty of setting standards in A-levels - the thorny problem which underlies the grade inflation debate.

The report says the process "complex and difficult" and "depends to a large extent on professional judgement - it can never be completely precise".

Testing times: the six ages of a schoolchild

AT 4/5 YEARS OLD

NOW: Around half of primary schools already assess children on entry at four or five to check their abilities in the three Rs and identify any special educational needs.

FUTURE: From September next year, the system will be formalised, with all schools expected to assess children according to nationally-set criteria within their first term. These "baseline tests", being piloted from this September, will include numbers, reading and writing, as well as abilities such as concentration and practical skills such as washing hands and tying shoelaces. Schools will set the findings against results of tests at seven to measure

AT 11 YEARS OLD

NOW: All state primary or middle schools are required to test children at 11. The key stage 2 tests, which are standard across the country, cover English, maths and science, and are supported by teacher assessments in all three subjects. By 11, pupils are expected to have reached level 4 on an eight-

National Curriculum standards. FUTURE: The results of tests for I1-year-olds, introduced in 1995, will be published schoolby-school in league-table form for the first time next month. The tables will cover tests sat last May in 16,000 primary schools in Eng

AT 14 YEARS OLD

NOW: State secondary schools must test pupils at 14 at the end of key stage 3 of the National Curriculum. The tests, introduced in 1993, cover English, maths and science.

By age 14, pupils are expected to have reached level 5-6 on scale of eight used to measure national curriculum standards. though by this age they may have moved to the top of the scale if exceptionally able. The results of tests for 14-year-olds are currently published only in terms of overall national

performance.
FUTURE: Reports on overall national results will be supplemented with annual league tables showing individual school's results.



NOW: State and independent secondary schools must publish the exam results of pupils aged 15-16 for inclusion in national league tables. The tables, inmoduced five years ago and pub-lished annually in November. show the percentage of eligible pupils gaining five or more GCSEs at grades A -C (the score taken as the benchmark measure in order to rank schools); the percentage gaining five or more GCSEs at grades A*-G; and the percentage gaining one or more GCSEs at grades A*-G. Vocational qualifications, mainly interme-diate level General National Vocational Qualifications, are also included, together with truan-

cy levels.
FUTURE: No change under the Conservatives. Labour would include more information showing "value added" by

17/18 YEARS OLD

NOW: State and independent secondary schools with sixthforms must publish A-level results, together with results of AS-levels and vocational qualifications, for inclusion in national league tables. The tables show how many pupils in each school were entered for fewer than two A-levels or AS-levels and the results they achieved, and the numbers and scores of pupils taking two or more exams.

FUTURE: The present AS-level exam, which covers half the content of A-levels but to the same level of difficulty, is to be replaced by a new exam equating to the first half of an A-level course. It will be sat mainly by pupils aged 16 to 17, at the end of their first sixthform year.



Low standards at £2,600-a-term school for children of the forces

Education Correspondent

An independent boarding school widely used by the children of forces personnel whose fees are paid by the state has serious weaknesses and is breaking the law on health and safety, government inspectors sziglyesterday.

report on £2,600-a-term tock School, near Bridg-Qualtock School, near Bridg-water, in Somerset, uncovered badinanagement, sub-standard teaching, poor assessment of pupils and low exam results.

It also found that the 82-puoil school failed to meet the legal minimum requirements on

health and safety and pupil welfare. Staff were inadequately trained in child protection procedures and some pupils did not know there was an "indepen-dent listener" not employed by the school to whom they could

turn with concerns. Much of the school was very cold and some areas were unsafe, including workshops and a chemistry preparation room with broken glass on the floor and unlabelled chemicals.

The report, by the government schools inspection watchdog Ofsted, will renew concerns over public money being spent on the education of children of service personnel in a largely

uninspected independent sec-tor. In 1994-95, the Government year. It has written to the school expressing concern at the report and asking for its plans for respent £107m on school fee allowances for service personnel serving abroad. The Ministry medial action. of Defence provides a boarding The inspection report iden-

tified some strengths, including generally positive attitudes to school allowance of up to £2,248 per term for secondaryage pupils, though parents must contribute at least 10 per cent work among pupils and a "su-perficially broad" curriculum. But it called for a wide range of of the fees. The MoD provides parents with a list of schools supplied by the Department for Education urgent improvements, including more supervision of pupils, rres to make workshops and Employment, but does not and other areas safe, more check or approve them. The edteacher training and better planucation department is not oblig-ed to inspect independent

ning and target-setting.

No one was available for schools and has wound down its comment at Quantock School programme from 19 inspec-

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Wall of silence from white vouths at Lawrence inquest

The inquest into the death of the murdered black teenager Stephen Lawrence degenerated into a "mockery" of the legal system yesterday when five young white men refused to answer any questions relating to

The "wall of silence" surrounding the killing of the promising A-level student stabbed in an apparently racist attack as he waited for a bus in Eltham, south-east London, in April 1993 - was maintained as the five men repeatedly claimed the common law right of privilege against self-incrimination at the hearing at Southwark coroner's court, south London. The five were Neil Acourt, 21,

Luke Knight, 19, and Gary Dobson, 21, who were all formally acquitted on a charge of murdering Lawrence at the Old Bailey last year, and Jamie Acourt, 19, and David Norris, 20, who never stood trial.

Their reactions to questioning at the inquest exasperated Michael Mansfield QC, for the Lawrence family, and the Southwark Coroner Sir



Stephen Lawrence: Knifed to death waiting for a bus

thing," Mr Mansfield told the

Questioning Jamie Acourt, Mr Mansfield said: "There has been a wall of silence about this case. There is somebody who knows much more than they are prepared to admit and therefore I must be entitled to ask ques-

called David Norris?" To laughter, he replied: "I am claiming privilege on that question." Mr Mansfield said: "It's an abuse. He's an automaton. He's standing there claiming privilege

on everything."
When Mr Norris also claimed privilege to the question of whether he was willing to listen, Sir Montague also 'You have to be prepared to

listen," he told Mr Norris, "otherwise it's a mockery." Earlier, Mr Mansfield had asked Luke Knight if he had sat at the back of the court - and

received the same response. Mr Mansfield shouted: "Please think about what you are saying. You cannot just give blank answers. I want to ask you if you would be kind enough to think about the questions." "I claim privilege," said Mr

Mr Mansfield said: "You are not even prepared to say whether you can think about the question. What I suggest then is that you have all decided to come here and say nothing at

"It's completely pointless.
These young men have decided any accession to absolutely any asked Mr Nortage "Are you asked M

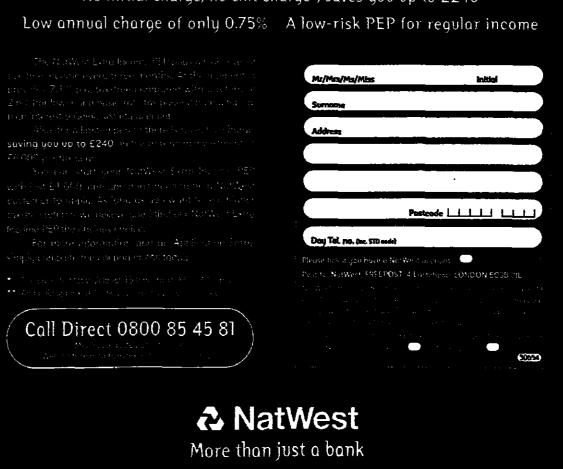
at the scene of the murder on 22 April, 1993; whether they could tell the court how Stephen Lawrence received his injuries; and if they knew of anyone else who could give details concerning the circumstances of

As the five men - clad for the most part in jackets, waistcoats and ties - rose to leave, the coroner issued a warning: "I wish to make this very clear, there must be no attacks on witnesses. That won't serve justice

at all in any way. They then left the court and sped away in two cars with three blonde women, refusing

Earlier, the court was told that Stephen had run 130 yards with a punctured lung and paralysed arm before collapsing and bleeding to death.

His mother, Doreen Lawrence, left the court in distress as Dr Richard Shepherd. who conducted the postmortem examination, said the teenager was stabbed twice with a weapon similar to a



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Russia resurrects spectre of nuclear holocaust

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

Russia yesterday threatened Russia yesterday threatened an extreme forward position - that it might use nuclear and then exploit the tactical adweapons pre-emptively in future conflicts, in response to conventional attack.

The move was clearly designed to put increased pressure on Nato at the start of historic negotiations about alliance exnsion to the east and a linked Nato-Russia charter.

the Rossilskaya gazeta daily that ter, Igor Rodionov, said the in case of a direct challenge our response will be fully-fledged, of going out of control. and we will choose the means

 including nuclear weapons". The announcement was reported as a threat to end Rusnuclear weapons", though many Western observers doubt whether it ever really had such a policy. There had already been indications that the idea, based on a promise Mikhail Gorbachev was abandoned in Russia's 1993 military doctrine.

The 1993 doctrine implied that nuclear states or states ailied to them might be nuclear targets, whether or not they used nuclear weapons first. Yesterday's statement was clearly directed against neighbouring countries like Poland which, if it joined Nato, would be an ally of nuclear states.

Such a policy makes sense, given the appalling weakness and decomposition of Russia's conventional forces, with low morale and troops unpaid for months. Officers are now failing to turn up for work in order to earn money elsewhere.

In such circumstances, any serious attack on Russia could force the Russians to respond with nuclear weapons which inligence sources say are still carefully controlled, despite last week's reports to the contrary.

But diplomatic and Nato sources believe yesterday's statement forms part of a classic Russian negotiating technique.
At the Madrid summit in July,
Nato is likely to issue invitations to some east European countries

The Russians like to take the strategic offensive - establishing vantages of the defensive.

Negotiations between Nato's Secretary-General Javier Solana and the Russians started on 20 January. Since then, the Russians have made a series of statements designed to alert the West to their predicament.

ato-Russia charter.
On Friday, the Secretary of the Defence Council, Yuri Ba-Russia's Security Council, told turin, and the Defence Minister, Igor Rodionov, said the of going out of control.
Russia has between 7,000 and

8,000 strategic nuclear weapons and an estimated 2,000 tactical warheads. But the Russians will sia's policy of "no first use of strive to keep control over these weapons above all others. Western experts dismissed the claims as exaggerated, while admitting that the disintegration of conventional forces could make nuclear first-use more likely. In fact, nuclear weapons se-

curity is still the responsibility of the FSB (heir to the KGB) which receives better pay and conditions than the armed forces. They have a "dual key" arrangement with the strategic missile troops of the armed forces. The threat of nuclear weapons going "out of control" relates to the reliability of staff who keep the weapons working. Nuclear weapons also have a finite shelf-life: some components degrade and therefore have to be replaced - that costs money, which is not available.

Last week's statement was designed to get more money from the Duma - the Russian parliament, whereas yesterday's was a clear shot across the bows of Nato and the main candidates for membership. ■ Moscow (Reuters)

strike by hungry workers at a nu-clear shipyard in the town of Severodvinsk near the northern port of Arkhangelsk could escalate into a riot unless they are quickly paid long-overdue wages, a local union leader has warned. He said there had been cases of workers fainting from - including Poland, the Czech hunger and a number of suicides.



Space chase: A photographer tracking the space shuttle Discovery on its pre-dawn lift-off yesterday from the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. The shuttle is Carrying a crew of seven on a 10-day mission to catch up with and service the Hubble Space Telescope Photograph: Pierre Ducharme/Reuters

Albanians torch ruling party's HQ

Balkan turbulence: While anarchy threatens Vlora, a logiam in the

Belgrade parliament is holding back democrats' hopes

Germans in lather over soap star's racist slur

Germany's leading entertainer was last night preparing to fly to Hollywood to apologise for racist remarks that have drawn a curtain on his career.

Harald Juhnke, 67-year-old singer and soap opera star, would be clearing up a "misunderstanding" with a black consumed, onlookers including

security guard working at Sun-set Boulevard's Mondrian Hotel, according to his agent. The source of this misunderstanding lies in a brief conversation with a guard named Bob

Farrell, shortly after the actor assaulted a female hotel guest. Though Juhnke's speech was rather slurred, owing to the large quantity of vodka he had the actor's son clearly heard him address Mr Ferrell in English with: "You filthy nigger". "Hitler was right," he added for good measure. The likes of you

should have been gassed."
The slur, which Juhnke first claimed not to have remembered and later denied, has whipped up a storm of protest in Germany, with employers rushing to terminate their con-

Andrew Gumbel

One day after running the

police out of town in pitched

street battles, the furious citizens of Vlora, Albania's second city, set fire to the headquarters of

the ruling Democratic Party yesterday. They chanted slogans

accusing the government of

murder as they joined the fu-neral cortege of a man shot dead during the riots.

As they walked across town

behind the coffin which carried

Artur Rustemi, 33, a vegetable

store owner who had piled hun-

dreds of dollars into a local

"pyramid" investment scheme,

as many as 40,000 mourners

shouted: "The police killed

him! The government killed

lic television stations and the private channel Premiere have cancelled shows starring him. A computer retailer pulled the olug on its advertising campaign

featuring Juhnke. facing bankruptcy. The advertising contract was worth 1.5m German marks. The canned television serial Clinic under the from other politicians, includ-

which turned the city centre into

a smouldering wreck on Mon-

day, or by the threat to impose

of a state of emergency on the

area. Deputies were still de-bating the issue last night in

parliament in the Albanian cap-

pseudo-banks that offer unre-

Palms, to be shot in the Caribbean, would have netted him DM300,000. Also gone are show appearances worth DM250,000, and galas and con-certs at DM50,000 a throw.

Such statements are unac-The country's biggest star is ceptable from a German," the spokesman of the right-wing Christian Social Union said. There have been rejoinders

ing two deputy speakers of the

Bundestag.
Juhnke had been thrown out of the hotel bar when he was detained by the guard while chasing a woman through the lobby.

Drunk or not, his racist re-marks are punishable by a jail term of up to five years in Germany. Prosecutors in his home town, Berlin, have already begun proceedings.

significant shorts

Crashed plane held rebels, Zaire claims

A Ugandan plane taking troops to eastern Zaire crashed inside the Zairean border, a defence official in Kinshasa said. It came down on Monday in the Ruwenzori mountain area; Zairean troops captured the survivors. There was no independent confirmation of the report. Meanwhile, the rebei leader, Laurent Kabila, presided over a parade of 1,000 new troops, signalling the rapid expansion of his insurgent force. More than 10,000 residents turned out in Bukavu to see the 1,200 recruits in US-style uniforms, wellington boots and AK-47s.

Reuter – Kinshass

Diplomats bag coke shipment

Peruvian police are investigating smugglers who used a diplomatic bag to send 2lb of cocaine to the Peruvian mission at the UN. Diplomats in New York found the package, which was addressed to a Peruvian civil servent in the city, and came from an ex-employee of the Peruvian Engine Ministry.

Britons wounded in Ethiopia

Two people were killed and nine wounded, including four tourists, when a grenade exploded in a hotel in the east. Ethiopian town of Harar. The dead were not identified; the wounded included two Britons, a French woman and a German, sources said.

Reuter — Addis Ababa

French focus on immigrant law

Film directors urged the French to disobey their tough anti-immigration laws and challenged the authorities to prosecute them for breaking them. "We are guilty ... of putting up illegal foreign residents recently ... We request being probed and put on trial," the 59 directors said in a statement in Le Monde. They were protesting at a law requiring citizens to report the arrival and departure of foreigners staying at their home.

Resuter - Part

For the love of humanity

The former minister Bernard Kouchner, founder of Médecins sans Frontières, said he was quitting French politics and going to Sudan to care for the destitute. Embittered after failing to find a constituency for next year's election, Mr Kouchner said he would return to his first career of humanitarian medicine.

EU passes up on London

The chairman of the group negotiating a new European Union treaty said he accepted that no British government would lift passport controls; London's EU partners would have to go it alone, the Dutch European Affairs Minister, Michiel Patijn, claimed.

Israelis let women go free

Israel began releasing 31 Palestinian women, keeping a pledge made in peace talks with the Palestinians. Five women prisoners were freed bours after the releases were expected to begin at noon yesterday.

High-flyers come down to earth

The US Air Force suspended all training flights over the Gulf of Mexico and the East Coast after two new reports of close encounters between F-16s and commercial aircraft in the area, bringing to four the number of incidents over a three-day period last week.

AP - Washington

Gem of a wildlife deal

with the World Wide Fund for Nature to protect Arctic lakes and forests in a quarter of its territory. The Swiss-based Fund will allocate \$350,000 (£218,000) to pay for conservation projects.

Aznavour on song

Charles Aznavour won best male vocal at France's Victoires de la Musique awards, in a broadcast tane-delayed to avoid interference by stagehands angered by cutbacks in unemployment insurance.

Angola peace-force warning

The UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, recommended that the Security Council extend the peace-keeping mis in Angola by only one month if the Angolans fail to forth government by the end of February. The mandate for the 6,000-member UN force, the largest peace-keeping

Current crisis in view

The Tretyakov Gallery, home of the world's greatest collection of Russian art, is unable to pay its bills and could find its electricity switched off for non-payment, director said. "There is that danger, yes, there is that danger," said Valentin Rodionov. Reuter - Mo

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determined to delay its passage. Opposition politicians, meanwhile, vowed to keep up the pressure on the authoritarian president, Slobodan Milosevic. by continuing their pro-democ-

Keeping up the pressure on President Milosevic for more democratic change, Belgrade students rallied and then marched to the parliament building, where they placed a huge artificial brain - a sug-

gestion that those inside par-liament had none. The parliament approved the naming of Radmila Milentijevic as the new Information

more than £300m, has robbed Vlora of much of its accumulated wealth. The government has failed to Vlora has been badly hit by convince the country that it had the failure of many of Albania's no part in the pyramid schemes so-called pyramid schemes - and has maintained control in most areas through sheer inalistically high rates of interest timidation, involving armed - because the amount of mon- and plainclothes police, mass arey at stake there is higher than rests and random beatings.

The anger of the population seemed unabated by the terri-fying escalation of violence, The protesters in Vlora have ambitions to launch a "march eteering, whether of arms, drugs on Tirana", joining forces with or illegal immigrants, and the demonstrators in other towns collapse of the local pyramid lving on Albania's main southnorth road, such as Fier, Lushcompany, Gjallica, last week, involving the estimated loss of So far that ambition has been

thwarted, because army units have taken up positions in the hills around the city and on the main roads, but it could still become reality.

"It seems an impossible plan, but you have to remember that these are people who in the past have walked across almost all of met with some sympathy even Greece on foot," said one in government circles. There are

Tirana journalist who did not wish to be named.

The crisis can only get worse, as it is probably a matter of days, or weeks at the most, before the largest of the pyramid schemes, holding the life-savings of hundreds of thousands of people, crumbles in turn.

The opposition, despite the constant harassment and physical attacks on its leaders, has demanded a cross-party dia-logue and the establishment of a national unity government. Significantly, that proposal has

Berisha and his Prime Manster, Aleksander Meksi.

Bashkim Koplika, a franer deputy prime minister and the

deputy prime minister and the of the parliamentary finance committee, has joined the talls for the government to reagn. There also appears to be a growing split between President Berisha and Mr Mess, with each hoping to save his ownstain by blaming the other for the debacle.

The foreign community, meanwhile, is hoping that the crisis can be resolved without a full-scale breakdown of public order. Diplomats are starting to consider the possibility of a transitional period, followed by new parliamentary elections.

Radicals try to delay Serbian elections bill

Belgrade (Reuter/AP) - Serbia's parliament met in extraordinary session yesterday to consider a bill reinstating opposition victories in municipal elections last November, but ultra-nationalists scemed

racy rallies in Belgrade's streets. Minister, and some other to protesting students, the minchanges in the cabinet. A hardliner who has supported Mr Milosevic's nationalist policies in the past, Mrs Milentijevic has been sharply criticised by the opposition.

The ministers of justice and interior, whose firing was demanded by the opposition, were not among the seven ministers dismissed. However, in what ap-

ister of education was removed. Mr Milosevic's Socialists had annulled opposition victories in

14 towns and cities on grounds of "irregularities". The action prompted three months of huge protests and attracted strident international criticism. But a week ago the president suddenly announced he was asking parliament to approve a bill recogpeared to be a small concession mising the opposition gains.

The three-party opposition Za-jedno (Together) coalition saw the move as a climbdown and a triumphal outcome of protests in Belgrade and other cities. Meanwhile, on Saturday Madeleine Albright, the Unit-

ed States Secretary of State, issued a personal appeal to Mr Milosevic, urging him to ensure the disputed election results were reinstated and to open a dialogue with his opponents.



open dialogue with opponents

Brabeth Nasili Infrew Gumbrel

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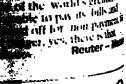
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H - THE INDEPENDEN

City hall against the world: Local governments confront nation-states, corporations and trade blocs **Boston takes** on EU over

Burma trade

New York The US state of Massachusetts

has pitted itself against both Japan and the European Union in a highly unusual interna-tional trade dispute. It has exercised what amounts to its own foreign policy by boy-cotting firms doing business with Burma, in protest at that

regime's human rights abuses.

The row has reached a new pitch after the delivery of a letter this week to the EU by members of the Massachusetts delegation to the United States Congress. The letter, similar to one sent last week to Japan, chastises the EU for lodging a complaint about the boycom with the Clinton administration. The boycott was signed into

law last August by the governor of Massachusetts, William Weld. Conceived as a sanctions measure against the military junta in Burma, it forbids the state from doing business with companies with interests in that country, or choosing them

Behind the dispute is concern about the implications of individual states and cities passing laws with international trading consequences over which Washington has no influence. Nor is the alarm confined to foreign companies and governments. Also raising the red flag recently was a spokesman for General

lem with 50 different states doing things as if they were the State Department," he said. While the state is alone in having such a law, 10 US cities, including San Francisco, have passed selective procurement laws designed to punish companies with operations in Burma. Among companies that have been moved to withdraw from Burma as a result are Ap-

Electric. "I have a basic prob-

losing a contract with the Massachusetts school system. The EU and Japan have notified the State Department that they consider the Massachusetts provisions illegal. They say it could be the subject of official complaints to the World Trade

ple Computer, which feared

EU. Ericsson of Sweden was recently persuaded to withdraw from the bidding for an emergency radio system contract in San Francisco because of its Burma links.

bassador to the US, Hugo Paemen, said the measure is "a breach of US international obligations and as such could have damaging effect on bilat-eral EU-US relations". Among those angered by the reaction is the Massachusetts Democrat Barney Frank. "I

particularly resent both the EU

The European Union Am-

and Japan trying to interfere with Massachusetts, particularly since we pay for their de-fence," he remarked. London (Reuter) — Political repression and human rights violations in Burma last year reached their highest levels since the violent state suppression of a popular uprising at the end of the 1980s, Amnesty International said. Amnesty urged

the international community

to redouble pressure on the Burmese authorities to improve



Tax battles stir up rebellion in the regions

The second secon

Elizabeth Nash Madrid Andrew Gumbel Rome Sarah Helm Brussels

Taxation is fast becoming the most important battleground in the fight by Europe's independently-minded

regions for greater autonomy. But, whereas in Scotland the debate has centred on the right of a new Scottish assembly to raise taxes above levels in the rest of Britain, in Spain, Belgium and Italy the position is reversed: the Basques, Flemish and Northern League want to reduce the regions might get the same idea.

burden of taxation. Madrid and the Basque country over which remains, in accordance with a corporate tax, which the Basque government of the

to 32.5 per cent. Its aim is to attract more investment to the region and offset the damaging effects of ter-

rorism and industrial decline. But Madrid says the Basques have no right to impose the lower rate and in September flung down a court challenge to the Basque government. The national government fears that the incentive offers too tempting a sweetener for companies and that other regions will be put at a disadvantage. - It also fears that other autonomous

ernment last year cut to a rate lower co's death, at 6.24 per cent of Spain's greater control over its tax revenue, cial security from the central state. irretrievably backward and corrupt. precisely the point.

than in the rest of Spain - from 35 national spending on defence, foreign affairs and the monarchy.

The Basque government takes the view that it is up to them how they raise that sum. "What we gather in taxes doesn't affect how much we pay the state," said the Basque Prime Minister. Jose Antonio Ardanza, recently.

The signs are that the Basque incentives are working. The Britishbased Coopers & Lybrand accountancy group moved its Spanish base from Madrid to near Bilbao last year, principally for tax reasons, they said, and others are following. The A conflict is simmering between amount of tax remitted to Madrid. Basques have also squeezed from the

but this time over income tax, in a formula which the Catalan leader Jordi Pujol seeks to generalise throughout Spain. Under a deal struck between the ruling Catalan nationalists and the minority government in Madrid, regions will retain a third of income tax raised within their terri-

ous setup, the regions had to apply to Madrid for repayment of their share. Similar patterns are repeated in Italy and Belgium, both countries experi-encing strong centrifugal forces. The regional government of Flanders has already won far-reaching autonomy within the Belgian federal system, and

tory; this clearly benefits the richer

regions like Catalonia. In the previ-

The Flemish leaders complain that Flanders, a relatively prosperous region of Belgium, is currently having to dish out vast sums to help pay the social security bills of the more impoverished French-sneakers in southern Wallonia, where unemployment is as high as 20 per cent in some areas. If it were not for the problems of Wallonia, Belgium would have no problem meeting the Maastricht criteria for monetary union, say the Flemish.

In Italy, the Northern League has been calling for a regionally-based tax system so that money earned in the north is not syphoned off by the "thieves in Rome" and redistributed to a centre and south that the

The reason why taxes have become an issue is partly that the Basque country, Flanders and northern Italy are all wealthier regions than average for their states. Taxation has historically aimed at redistribution of income to the lower-paid but also to the poorer areas, in part to assure the tre stage. When guns are at very state cohesion which is questioned by the separatists and by advocates of greater autonomy

In Belgium, opponents of decen tralisation argue that granting Flanders autonomy over tax and social security would hit at the heart of the state, increasing the possibility that Belgium itself might one day break up. Yet that - for the more radically

A global view from the ethnic back yard

The combination of local gov-ernment and foreign policy sounds odd, if not risible. In Britain it summons up memories of nuclear-free zones and concerts for Nicaragua - more thout gesture than reality, even

if the gestures were heartfelt. But as the two examples which we present today show, local - that is to say, nonnational - government is at the

cutting edge of politics.

To an extent, this is a result of the revival of ethnic nationalism, which feeds moves for autonomy, as in Flanders, the Basque country or Catalonia. But there is more to it than that, as the case of Boston in Brussels shows. Local government is taking up arms; to defend itself in a global economy; to assert the values which citizens feel their national governments ig-nore; and to follow that old nostrum of the Green movement: Think Global, Act Local,

Closer to home, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and parts of England are taking the "Westminster Bypass", a route that lies through Brussels. That means negotiating for funds, but also lobbying for or

against particular policies.

Central government is insufficiently flexible to represent regional views. This is not just a matter of bumptions local officials getting above themselves, it is the crumbling of the very idea of "national interest."

Traditional "high" foreign policy - military and security matters - remains the preserve of nation states. But "low" policy issues - trade, the environment, communications and so on - are increasingly taking censtake, then Brixton or Bremen might not have much to say. When it's butter, then they do.

In this new world, city hall and corporations clash and cooperate with states and international organisations. It makes the world a much more complicated, unpredictable and multi-dimensional place.

Andrew Marshall

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Enter the dragon: Shanghai comeback challenges financial might of Hong Kong

Shanghai

On Shanghai's waterfront Bund, once the financial centre of Asia, the flagships of old wealth find it politically acceptable again to trade on former glories. The Peace Hotel, known as the Cathay Hotel when Noël Coward stayed and penned Private Lives, has turned its top floor into an international bankers' club, a place specially used for social contact and communications between celebrities of financial circles". As its regulations announce, "sloppily dressed" people are not welcome.

In Shanghai, the (smartly dressed) international banker is again a creature to be welcomed. The city has set ambitious targets to reclaim some of the stature of its Thirties hey-

day. "We have worked out a as a cash cow by the communis three-phase action plan," said government and between 1949 Wang Zhan, director of the and 1983 remitted 87 per cent government's Development Research Centre: to be China's national financial centre before 2000, Asia's regional financial hub by 2005, and a global financial centre in 2010. Where, then, does that leave

Hong Kong? Is the "dragon's head" of the Yangtze River, as Shanghai is officially described, set to eclipse Hong Kong after sovereignty reverts to China? "By 2010, I think Shanghai will be a city that stands out as a regional financial centre, on a par with Hong Kong if not ahead," said Douglas Red, general manager of the Shanghai branch of the merchant bank, ING.

By Chinese standards, modern Shanghai is a late starter. For decades, the city was used

of its revenues to Peking. After market reform was launched in 1978, Shanghai's relative economic status declined sharply as Peking instead promoted an export-oriented boom in south-The turning point for Shanghai was 18 April 1990, when the

central government launched the Pudong district, across the river from the Bund, as China's future financial centre. The results, as Mr Red said

there was very little in the way of foreign investment and foreign presence in Shanghai. [Today the foreign community is growing dramatically, the infrastructure has developed in a way which I would say is the envy of most metropolitan areas in China, and the growth seems set to continue," he said.

The physical transformation has been probably the fastest of any city on earth. Annual promised overseas investment in Shanghai has surpassed \$10bn (£6bn) a year for the past three years and in Pudong there are more than 4,000 foreign-funded financial and manufacturing companies. There is enough office space to satisfy all foreseeable demand and rents have slumped. Even so, this year, another 3 million square feet will become available in Pudong alone, with 140 high-rise buildings under construction.



New business: The district of Pudong in Shanghai which is poised to rival Hong Kong as a financial centre

Hong Kong, while fearing competition, also has a vested interest in Shanghai's future. It is the biggest investor in Shanghai, and accounts for more than 40 per cent of foreign funds promised for Pudong. Business links are strong; many Hong Kong moguls, including the future chief executive Tung Chee-hwa, are displaced Shanghainese, whose families fled when the Communists took control in 1949.

when - Shanghai's revival will start to undermine Hong Kong.

The question is whether - and

natural deep-water port, means that it handles nearly half of China's exports; it will take years of river-dredging before Shanghai is able to handle the next generation of container ships.

As a financial centre, even Chinese officials for the time being play down Shanghai's threat to Hong Kong, Li Qian, the spokeswoman at the Shanghai Stock Exchange, defines the future relationship as "cooperation and competition". The onus is on Shanghai to implement further reform. At the moment, the total value of

Kong stock market is seven times the Shanghai market, and most of the shares in China are still "A" shares which can be purchased only by Chinese.

Similarly, there are already 44 foreign branches of international financial institutions in Shanghai. But it is only very recently, and after agreeing to put branches in Pudong, that a handful of foreign banks has been given permission to conduct limited local-currency business. Many of Shanghai's barriers -

including the prerequisite of a

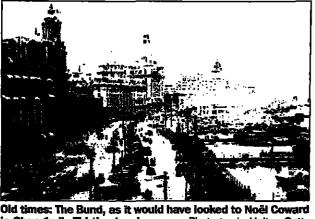
ernment edict, and probably will be over the next few years. But other requirements of a world financial centre are less tangible, such as a free press, a transparent regulatory and legal system, low corruption, and an ease of entry for foreign players. By all these counts, Hong Kong is in a different world to Shanghai. The question, after I July this year, when the British colony reverts to China, is whether these rela-

because of greater mainland influence in Hong Kong.

tive advantages will be eroded

is on target. His second goal is more of a challenge; Hong Kong is the bridge for international main so until foreign banks see Shanghai as a place to put their Greater China or East Asia regional headquarters:

Some time in the next centur that is likely to happen. But there are those who think that Shanghai's renaissance does not have to be at Hong Kong's expense. At the Pudong New Area Administration Office, Pan Zonglin said: "China is very



in Shanghai's Thirties heyday

Executions blamed for ethnic riots

Chris Bird Reuters

Almaty — The leader of an exiled nationalist Uighur group in Kazakhstan said yesterday that riots in China's predominantly Muslim north-west were sparked by the execution of 30 Uighurs by the Chinese authorities last week.

We have heard that 30 people, Uighurs, were executed by a firing squad," Yusupbek Mukhlisi, leader of the United National Revolutionary Front of East Turkestan, said in the

capital Almaty... He said that the public executions were carried out in the town of Yining, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) from the Kazakh border in China's north-western Xinjiang

province, last Friday. "When the parents and famllies saw this, they lost their patience," said Mr Mukhlisi. He said that the executions fell on the fifth anniversary of the decision made by some Uighur separatist groups to use violence to secure independence from

Chinese sources say 10 peo-ple were killed and about 100 wounded in the resulting riots by pro-separatist Uighurs. How-ever, Mr Mukhlisi said the ca-sualties were higher, with 25 Uighurs and 55 Chinese soldiers killed in the violence.

Chinese residents in Yining, called Kuldzha by the Uighurs, said the town had been sealed off by Chinese police and that

Mr Mukhlisi said hundreds of Uighurs had been arrested af-

ter the rioting. They have run out of room at the prisons and are putting people in cellars," Information from the re-mote region is difficult to veri-

fy. Mukhlisi said telephone ines to and from Kazakhstan had been cut, and most information was reaching Almaty from Uighur travellers.

A Chinese official source in

Almaty said the unrest was to be expected. "It is a multi-ethnic region so it doesn't surprise me," said the source.

The region is home to ethnic Kazakhs and Kyrgyz as well as Uighurs and Han Chinese. "The [Uighur] separatists are stirring this up," the source

Local authorities have played down the riot, describing it as a small incident started by "for-

eign hostile forces".

The Xinjiang authorities last year cracked down on the Uighur separatists, Turkicspeaking Muslims who make up the majority of the region's pop-ulation, after a series of violent clashes, bombings and assassination attempts on officials and Muslim leaders regarded as

pro-Peking.
Peking also imposed tougher border controls along the vast region of mountains and desert, saying it wanted to halt the smuggling of arms from the neighbouring central Asian states of Kazakhstan,

Freedom petition for jailed Wang

Mure Dickie Reuters

Peking — The family of the

jailed Chinese dissident Wang Dan is planning to petition a Peking court to overturn his 11-year jail sentence for plotting to overthrow the government, the former student leader's mother said yesterday: The petition would be a

mainly symbolic gesture to the legal authorities that last year convicted Wang in a trial lasting only four hours, said his mother Wang Lingyun.

There is no optimism over the result," she said in a telephone interview. "This is an expression of our attitude."

Wang's family had already

prepared documents for the

petition, which they expected to submit to the Peking Higher

People's Court later this month, she said. 'In accordance with the legal

system, after Wang Dan's appeal, he himself or his family are allowed to submit a petition." said the 61-year-old museum researcher, who helped to defend her son during his trial last year.
I've written a first draft but

I baven't sent it yet," she said. "I need to tidy it up before submitting it to the court."

Chinese legal experts say that submitting petitions to overturn verdicts which have already survived an appeal have almost no chance of succeeding

in forcing a retrial.

Wang Dan was one of the leaders of the pro-democracy student protests of 1989 that were crushed by the Chinese army with heavy loss of life. He was sentenced last October.





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Full marks for consensus on education

ere is Question One in the new, revised Advanced (Subsidiary) Level examination in education. Which post war prime minister first used the phrase "secret garden" to describe the curriculum and the way it is taught in school classrooms? Was it - we offer this multiple-choice format to those whose attention may have been slipping during the recent phoney war between Government and Opposition - a) John Major, b) Alec Douglas-Home or c) James Callaghan? It is true that Home was a great borticulturist but the correct answer is Labour prime minister Callaghan, who in a speech at Nuffield College in the Seventies launched a Great Debate on education and - incidentally - spelled the end of an era for autonomous local education authorities. Eleven years on, his secret garden has not just been opened to visitors but is busily being

A. THE INDEPEND

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trampled upon by inspectors, parents and politicians. Yesterday Prime Minister Major reached out for the same phrase. To him it served as another way of saying that councils (by which he naturally means Labour-controlled councils) and teachers are far too close. But that partisan usage misses the point. The degree of convergence between the parties on education during the past decade has been quite extraordinary and yesterday's flurry of announcements by the Prime Minister, Educa-

tion Secretary, their shadows, and Lib-eral Democrats, served to underline that fact. On schools most of us now agree. In fact, the base consensus on education is a little unnerving.
Since Callaghan, actual policy has of

course been delivered by the Tories. Keith Joseph reformed examinations at 16-plus by merging the General Certificate of Education and the General Certificate of Secondary Education, so fulfilling an old Labour wish. Kenneth Baker inaugurated the national curriculum which - once the rhetoric and the party folderols had been stripped aside - answered a long-standing Labour aspiration. So yesterday turned into an exhibi-

tion of mutual clothes stealing. "Kleptomaniac", the Prime Minister cried as he dipped deep into the mixed bag of policies assembled in recent months by David Blunkett for Labour. On testing, the measurement of per-formance, the use of inspection, schools management, parent choice ... if you look at what they are actually doing or promising to do, rather than listen to the soundbites, the differences of principle fade away.

What differences persist are most obviously on questions of organisation, several tiers away from the classroom. Labour tends to favour residual council controls, which is of course partly a reflection of the fact it runs so many. The Conservatives, once the party of



one canada square canary wharf london eh 5DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-233 2435 / 0171-845 2435

the little platoons and local diversity, these days favours central control with a high degree of individual school autonomy. But even here the real differences between the parties are hard to spot. Both would send in hit-teams of inspectors to run underperforming schools, and to bring inadequate local authorities up to standard. Labour would publish information on attainment by children locally, on the practical grounds that the performance of children in schools halfway across the country is largely irrelevant to the choices parents have before them. But Labour also has no objection in prin-

ciple to collecting data nationally, for example through the Audit Commission. Some parents send their children across boundaries and need to have access to data provided out of area; the sensible solution is to ensure that data is provided in standard formuts which makes it collectible and collatable by central agencies (including newspapers). The issue of national versus local league tables is thus a red herring: the point is that no one, including most sensible teachers, dissents from the principle of comparison.

A twist was added yesterday with the suggestion that the appraisal of teach-

ers should be linked with their performance as measured by their pupils' performance. Once this would have brought the roof down, with Labour and the trade unions joined in pernicious opposition to progress. No longer. The question becomes one of detail and practicality: do tests at seven, 11 and 14 provide enough information; do they assist heads in getting the measure of underperforming staff? Often, it is true, information sounds like a stick with which to beat education's professionals. Understandably, they must feel they are being required to carry many of the burdens of change and improvement - the political class wills the ends of educational improvement but decrees it can be had without increased means. Put that more simply, there has recently been a lot of stick

Similarly Gillian Shephard's pronouncements yesterday on A-levels raised hardly a flutter from her Labour shadow. He might have said (we would say, ought) that an opportunity for radical reorganisation of 18-plus has been squandered. What Mrs Shephard offered was rationalisation of the examination boards. Fine: who is going to dissent from that proposition, other than those schools which have lately and blatantly been playing the field. Did David Blunkett object to Mrs Shephard's plans? How could he. Perhaps, in office, he will pick up the

and not much carrot.

threads left dangling from Sir Ros Dearing's report. Then it will be hi Shadow's turn to mouth objection while getting on with agreeing.

Noting and applauding the conver gence of the parties' education think ing may offend those who think the bes policy is born in dissension. Fortunatel they are wrong: the fact that the polit ical class is pretty much of one mind or the way forward, and that their view largely aligns with the wishes of parents should be an occasion for celebration

The Spice Girls for ever?

How long will the Spice Girls last The answer is for ever. Official Their collected works will henceforth be statutorily kept for future generation along with every other CD released it Britain, every film, every TV programme and every CD-Rom, under new proposals. With the electronic information explosion, says the Government, it is no longer sufficient to keep books in perpetuity in the British Library. For those of us who lament the BBC failing to preserve the early Peter Cook and Dudley Moore and other classics, there is indeet a logic to storing some true treasures But for the rest - shouldn't popular culture be as perishable as possible?

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

HAVE ZERO BUDGET, HOT AIR BLAST OFF!

Supertankers heading for the rocks

Sir. The first anniversary of the Sea Empress disaster falls on 15 February. Little progress has been

The Sea Empress ran on to rocks because, like all tankers of its size, it was dangerously unmanoeuvrable and far too massive to be towed out of danger by any rugs in the world. Bringing ships which take many minutes to turn, and many miles to stop, into coastal waters invites aster. Expecting tugs to pull them out of danger ensures that the

Oil tanker design, driven by evaded all effective regulation since the Second World War. None of the disaster inquiries has questioned the fundamental flaws in these monstrous ships. Either because they were confidential (Sea Empress), ill-composed (Bruer) or charged with restricted terms of reference (Exton Valdez), none of the inquiries addressed the fundamental questions of tanker

the British government to hush up the Sea Empress disaster within an already believe themselves to be legally and financially responsible for what occurred in Milford Haven

that night 12 months ago. Since the British government isn't going to come clean, we must lobby Neil Kinnock, the EU Commissioner for Transport, to hold a proper open inquiry, not only into the Sea Empress, but into the general question of

supertankers cause a devastating pollution incident (more than 10,000 tonnes of oil spilled) during their lives (US National Academy of Science figure). Professor MICHAEL DISNEY (Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Wales MATHIAS DISNEY MSc

Why women need voting reform

London SW4

Sir. We welcome any moves to make the selection procedures for prospective parliamentary candidates more open to women ("Role-play to give women that vital push for Parliament", 11 February). However, one of the main barriers to selection of women remains our electoral system:

It is no accident that countries with a high proportion of women MPs, such as Sweden with over 40 per cent or Norway with 39 per cent, use a different electoral system. Under the UK system, selection committees have to choose one candidate. In safe seats they have probably not had to make a decision like this for 20 to 30 years. Perhaps not surprisingly, they often play safe, trying to pick someone as much like their last MP as possible, only younger, and end
up seeing another white man.
In contrast, under electoral

systems with more than one candidate per constituency it makes sense for local parties to present a balanced state, including candidates from a range of backgrounds, women as well as

Sign-fry for

disasters will become catastrophes.

design and tanker size.

The latest perverse decision by

in-house inquiry ensures that further such catastrophes will occur, and can only fuel speculation that they

supertanker safety.

Between 30 and 60 per cent of all

(Remote Sensing Unit, University College London)

Lessons on the Holocaust

Sir: Of course it is foolish to make denying the Holocaust a criminal offence (Letters, 4, 7, 10 February). But anyone who says that a wellattested historical event did not take place is clearly unfitted to teach at any level; from school to university. He or she would also lack the balanced understanding needed by those who work for central or local government. Clearly what is needed is some measure to exclude those who deny that the Holocaust happened from work to which their unital anced minds are unsuited.

Asian candidates, the

more obvious.

Fawcett Society

London EC2

Sir. I am appalled at the generalisation made by Becky Johns ("Muslims who deny Holocanst", Letters, 7 February) about young Muslims. The experience of your writer is limited to those students who study English as a second language — a very small minority of young Muslims.

Lim a father of two universityeducated Muslim children and

have also worked with many young men, to appeal to all sections of the electorate. It also becomes harder Muslims through my association with a local community in Harrow. I can say that it is mischievous to to justify selecting mainly men. We might just believe that any suggest that these young Muslims deny the Holocaust or will gloat at individual candidate selected at the moment was the best person for the the truth of it. They may be job, but if we were to be presented indifferent to events that happened more than 50 years ago which have with a list containing hardly any vomen, and even fewer black or not affected them. UZAIR M RIZKI discrimination would appear far Pinner, Middlesex MARY-ANN STEPHENSON

Water utilities paid their way

Sir: How nice to receive a letter from Mr Major on the dangers of the "windfall tax".

However, there is one sentence in his letter I find baffling. He says: "Companies which used to devour huge subsidies from the taxpayer now pay large amounts of tax to the Exchequer." Which companies is he referring to? I know a little bit about the water

industry, and no subsidy was paid to the old water authorities. They borrowed, of course, to fund capital expenditure (just as the privatised companies do) and mainly from the National Loans Fund, but a commercial rate of interest was charged by the NLF and eventually recovered from the customers. The same is true, I believe, of the other

utilities. The only nationalised industries which "devoured" any significant subsidies were rail (nothing's changed there) and coal (which has been virtually shut down and

certainly isn't "paying large amounts of tax"). DAVID GADBURY East Grinstead. Sussex

Misguided liberal gloss on the Bible Sir: Shock! Horror! According to

the Rev Kenneth Wilson's letter (8 February), 200 years of biblical scholarship has discovered that there are cultural aspects to the But that has always been

recognised by theologians. God spoke in particular cultures at particular times. But what He spoke n and through those cultures was culture-transcending truth. Mr Wilson seems to think that somehow we in the 20th century no longer have cultural baggage. We can look down our noses at the poor culture-bound writers of the Bible. But his letter is full of cultural

assumptions – anti-supernaturalism and feminism for example, If Mr Wilson finds the teachings of the Bible on everything from a transcendent God and the substitutionary death of Christ to family relationships so repugnant, committee. why does he not do the decent thing, renounce his ordination vows and stop calling himself a Christian? Perhaps the Rationalist Press Association would give him a job. But I doubt he will do that, because "Liberal Christianity" is

Self-reliance the key to defence

Sir: Paul Vallely makes some

excellent points ("How Blair can

save billions on defence", 10 February), but unfortunately he repeats the fallacy that no savings

can be made by axeing the Trident

nuclear weapon system. Even after most of the building work is completed, Trident will continue to

cost huge amounts of money. Sir Ronald Mason (former Chief

Scientific Adviser at the Ministry of

Defence) estimates the total cost of

weapons take up more than 7 per cent of the defence budget and cost

Trident as £50bn. British nuclear

over £1.5bn per year to maintain.

That's a bigger potential saving than withdrawing the Army from

Germany.

A British defence review that

Chair, Campaign for Nuclear

My UN views

Sir. Your article "Europe urges

Annan to reform the UN" (21

Development or of the United

Nations Industrial Development

opposite is the case. I believe that

the functions these organisations

carry out are of great importance

and that both should be sustained

in a reformed United Nations.

Administrator, United Nations

JAMES GUSTAVE SPETH

Development Programme

New York

Organisation, In fact, the exact

certainly do not support the closing down of the United Nations

January) is doubly wrong. I

Conference on Trade and

taken seriously.

DAVID KNIGHT

London N7

includes peither Trident nor Nato

can hardly be called strategic, or be

Sir: Paul Vallely ("How Blair can save billions on defence", 10 February) dismisses many capabilities of our armed forces as unnecessary, and makes several suggestions that can never be practical.

Do we need tanks at all? Yes, we do, as, great though belicopters are, they cannot take and hold territory. They are needed to guard the armoured personnel carriers that carry our troops, and they are vulnerable to hand-held surface-to-

Tomahawks can never totally replace attack aircraft, as their unit cost makes that decision very uneconomic compared with an aircraft that can be re-used. We train and equip our forces for

high-intensity conflict because then they are prepared for all eventualities. Situations can change very quickly, and troops could go in intending to peacekeep and end up inside a major conflict. Then we would not have the time to run to the Americans for help, or persuade a European

By all means integrate Europe's desence industries, but we have to maintain a capability to conduct limited high-intensity warfare, in support of Nato, our European partners, or even for our own national interest. We cannot totally rely on other nations.

cryonics] point of view". The experiments to which the

for the preservation of organs by the failed experiments carried out by Audrey Smith, at the National Institute for Medical Research, in 1957. We now know much more about the reasons for their failure, a significant advance in organ

even if the problems of deepfreezing living organs are solved, the cryonicists will have additional problems to contend with. Extending the technique from organs to whole people; restoring the dead to life; curing the diseases or injuries that lead to their death: and all with perfect restoration of memory and personality.

very few people have signed up for cryonic suspension.

The true situation cannot be better summarised than it was by Peter and Jean Medawar, who wrote in Aristotle to Zoos: "In our opinion, money invested to preserve human life in the deep freeze is money wasted, the sums involved being large enough to fulfil a punitive function as a self-imposed

Greetings cards always delayed

Sir: I share Mervyn Benford's concern about the increasing inclination of the Post Office to ignore the first-class stamp and make its own idiosyneratic judgements about when to deliver our mail (letter, 8 February).

We have a daughter at school in Newbury who telephones home most days, which enables us to keep an exact record of the arrival of

Post people seem to think that postcards must be frivolous - they cannot possibly contain any urgent message. So postcards sink to the bottom of the pile and always take two or three days. Anything that can easily be identified as a greetings card seems to be automatically sifted out of the firstclass system. I have overcome the problem by disguising every card in a plain white business-like envelope - a ruse that is almost always

DILYS BARRATT Maidenhead, Berkshire

Sir: I sympathise with Mr Benford's feelings. The time taken for a firstclass letter of normal size sent from my home in Northumberland to Westbury, Willishire was four days,

City-to-city first-class letters may be delivered the next day, but when it comes to rural, or semi-rural, areas - forget it! JHEWETT Ponteland, Northumberland

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk). E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clanty. الراجات والمستنا والمستناجات المقارات وجالها والأرام والمستوالة والمستوساتين

intellectually dishonest.

The Rev GUY A DAVIES

Stalbridge, Dorset

Only the gullible pay to be frozen

Sir: The article "The cryonics game" (7 February) gives a misleading impression of the scientific basis of cryonics. Frankly, there isn't one.

To summarise comments by scientists on the South African "breakthrough" as "tsk-tsk" is neither informative nor accurate, and it simply is not true that "the world is getting closer to {the

article refers emphatically have not demonstrated an effective method deep freezing - in fact they take us no nearer to the cryonics goal than but that knowledge has yet to yield

preservation. Nor should readers forget that,

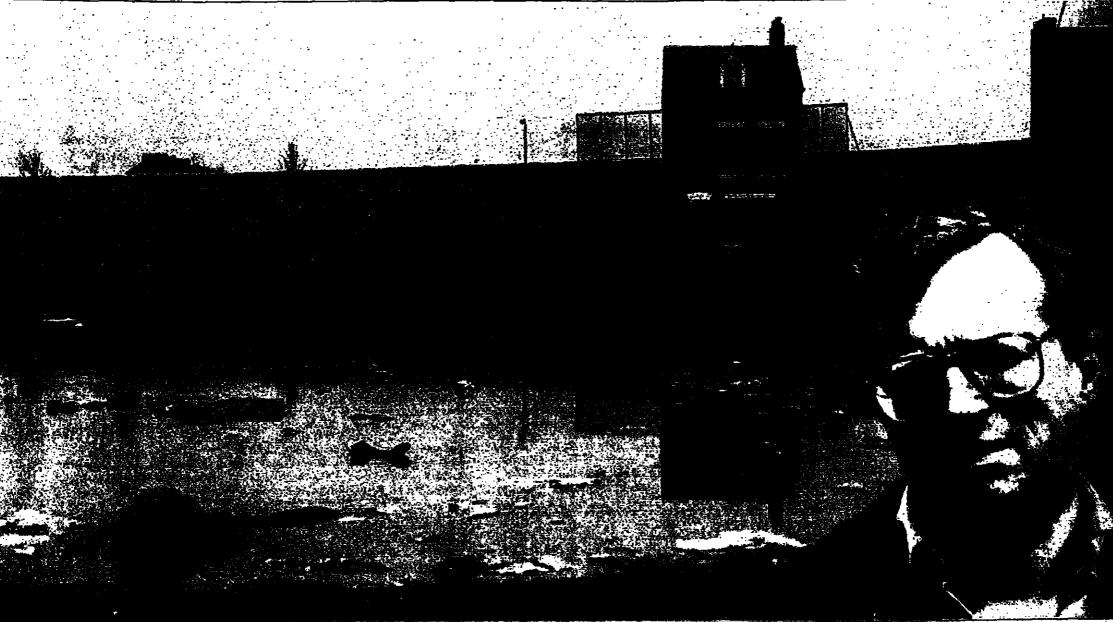
It really is not surprising that so

pantre intertent as serim; fine for gullibility and vanity. DAVID E PAGG, Medical Cryobiology Unit University of York

items we post to her.

The same applied in the reverse direction.

Fisk in Ireland, Part 1



Belfast's 'peace' line, as high and distressing as any of the Beirut variety. Inset: Robert Fisk, Middle East correspondent, who reported from Belfast in the Seventies

Main photograph: Stephen Davison/Pacemain

Back to Belfast

6 The RUC

men and

window like

the stations d been recognisably Victoan, with their stone booking alls and arched brick windows id lacy wooden roofs. Dunilk, the last station before ie frontier, looked just like isburn, the last big station fore Belfast, Indeed, they just have been designed by the ime company, perhaps the ery same architect, in the days efore partition. But Dundalk ad been identified in Irish as un Dealgan, while Lisburn uried no hint of its original

Robert Fisk, The

'ndependent's

ward-winning

war reporter, returns to Northern

Ireland after

more than 20

years to find

that it has

eerie parallels

with the

Middle East

The Middle East has sharpned my sense of the politics of ames. In Hebrew, Jerusalem Yerushelaim". In Arabic, it

"Al-Quds". Belfast would so be "Beal Feirste" if that art of its history had not been ashed away. Ironically, it is a one keep to the left of the ain that alerts passengers to te border, a medieval fortress very bit as forbidding as the rusader castles that litter vria. Lebanon and what was nce Palestine, the 12th century minding us of the frontiers of

How strange is the effect of cossing these invisible lines. On te other side of a field to the ght, the cars bearing Irish

familiar yellow British registration. Across on the Newry road, an advertisement announced the best dry-cleaners in Ireland "as seen on BBC". And high up on a hillside above the railway

embankment, an iron stockade contained the descendants of the armies of Elizabeth I, their swords replaced by radio aerials and anti-missile screens, their presence reduced to this indefensible bit of the old Ireland. The rain was beating against the windows of my carriage The station signs now came in an odd, oblong typeface without capital letters, screwed on

to iron grills.
I had forgotten the smell of Belfast, the cloak of invisible, wet smoke that wraps the city in winter. I had forgotten that despite its assumed Britishness, Northern Ireland boasted a Ruritanian currency of local fivers and £10 notes, each illustrated with the kind of ripening fields and cranes and tractors

that I can find on the banknotes

years - that separate Westminster from this avowedly British

In a province in which the Unionists are supposed to represent the Tories - which they don't - and in which the Labour party does not field a single candidate, the Belfast Telegraph was advertising an "exclusive" interview with Tony Blair. "There is not a lot of trust around now ..." he is saying. "What is to be gained by one more death and one more bombing? The answer is nothing ... If violence stops and trust and confidence can be built, then I think Northern Ire-

land can have a great future ..."
"Can". "Think". It was lamentable. What will Tony Blair's approach to Northern Ireland be? "Bugger all," an old Protestant friend of mine from Derry replied, reading aloud another passage of Blairite wisdom in which the Labour leader declared that he was "not going to dictate what the terms of that

number plates with their little of any Arab nation. And I had future might be" although it and Dublin is "in the south". Irish EU signs had vanished, to not remembered the distance – would have to "be based on the centre of the known world to make the hundreds of miles and light consent and agreement agreement and agreement agre respect for the very different traditions which coexist in the

province" "Bullshit," my friend said. "It will have to be based on British leadership and contempt for sectarianism, on a British prime minister with enough seats to ignore the Unionist party, and who'll tell the police to keep the rule of law and not cave in to Orangemen, and who'll stop stroking the IRA one day and call-

next." I'd forgotten how little the soldiers slid British understood the Protespast the car tants and Catholics of Northern Ireland - and how an old film 9 well Northern Irelanders compre-

hend the weaknesses of the little men at back to the bad days." Westminster. Ask Protestants if they trust John Major and they will pronounce his name with the "J" of John heavily and contemptuously aspirated, along with the good-natured smile of the strong who know how to deal with the pusillanimity of

their enemies.
"We don't trust John Major,"
lan Paisley declared to me. "He's made promises to us and he hasn't kept them." And I noticed that the good reverend also grinned when he mentioned Major's name, like a hungry man contemplating

Or dinner, as Northern Irelanders call lunch - dinner being "supper" in Belfast. Just as Britain is "across the water"

the centre of the known world being Belfast - just as Beirut or Damascus or Jerusalem or Hebron or Gaza are to their inhabitants.

Belfast has now been dressed in fancy clothes in keeping with its status as a semi-peaceful - or half-warlike - city; boutiques, new restaurants and clothing stores and bookshops, a revitalised theatrical and arts life. and a new lower ground floor of the Europa Hotel that makes it look like the front

> "Don't you like the city now?" asked the lady who used to safeguard my bank account in Donegall Place in the days when I was a Belfast correspondeut. "People don't want to go

This surprised me. The "bad days" are supposed to be back. But as David McKittrick, The Independent's Ireland correspondent, has put it, this is "half war". "Quarter war," I suggested to McKittrick - we have been old friends since the Seventies, when I worked in Belfast for The Times, David for The Irish Times - after he offered to drive me round west Belfast. There were no security checks in town, I said. No barriers. No soldiers. Where was the war? McKittrick has a soft, devas-

tating sense of humour. Like many in Northern Ireland, he smiles after he has made a joke, not before. This can be disturbing. When I asked where

"This is where Divis was - do you recognise these houses?" We had turned left off the Falls Road. Of course, I've driven round these Catholic homes many times. "No, you haven't," McKittrick said. "They're all

They were. Smart terraces and semi-detached houses most built to the same dimensions as the slums they took the place of the Housing Executive dutifully replacing the familiar with the familiar - had taken the place of the squalor that I remembered. But when we of a Third Reich turned a corner, the old Bella was there, two lonely RUC men in flak jackets with a line of British soldiers on both pave-

ments, their rifle-sights caressing the contours of each house, the bright green and black cam-ouflage making the old, cruel contrast with the grey estate. They slid past the car window like an old film, a television repeat of infinite weariness and meaning. McKittrick had made his point, but slid a cassette beneath the car radio. An English voice, public school, vowels enunciated, was speaking slowly and deliber-

itely over a two-way radio. Two dead bodies are being taken to Altnagelvin Hospital," the voice said. The tape had been discovered by Channel 4 when its crew were inves-tigating Bloody Sunday, the shooting dead of 13 civil rights demonstrators by members of the 1st Battalion, the Parachute Regiment in Derry in

McKittrick let the cassette run on as we drove along the "peace" line, as high and as dis-tressing as any of the Beirut variety that lay along the Holocaust. In just such a way,

Lebanese front lines between 1975 and 1990. From the radio comes a high-pitched whine and a voice - another British army officer - saying: "Photographers are taking pictures of a body in Chamberlain street."

The whine continues on the tape. "Helicopter." McKittrick mutters. And I understand. The voices are coming from a helicopter high over the Rossville Flats on Bloody Sunday, as clear now - 25 years later - as they were on the day.

McKittrick turns into Cupar Way and stops beside the cushigh, green-painted, running as far as the eve can see, shameful and sinister. And when I wind down my window, I hear, high above us, the whine of a real-time helicopter. Several thousand feet up, it circles and recircles this slum state, photographing and re-photographing the wasteland and garbage and the vehicles on the road and, no doubt, our car too. And an odd thought occurs to me, that this tiny machine has been flying for 25 years, that its haunting mosquito whine has never left the skies of Northern Ireland, that if I lived here - rather than amid the heat and flies of the Middle East - I could believe that nothing had changed since Bloody Sunday.

Like the Lebanese, the people of Belfast long ago developed an exaggerated sense of their own tragedy. The Leban-ese foreign minister insisted to me in 1983 that if Lebanon was not given peace, it would be "the end of the known world". Palestinians have been given to claim

IRA prisoners in the Eightles would claim that Ling Resiscamp was "worse than Belson".
Only last month, the Northern Ireland Office was proposing to make a television advertisement suggesting that intimidation in Belfast could be compared to the persecution of Jews in prewar Germany. Nobody must be allowed to place events in

whii Scott

In Bullymurphy, four young men in jeans watch our car suspiciously. "Social workers." McKittrick says, only glancing at me afterwards to see if caught his irony.

The walls were painfully familiar. "Welcome to the Loyalist Heartland of Ulster": "Liw Free - Or Like a Freeman Die Not Like a Fenian Slave "Shankili Road No, Surrender" Wasn't there an "h" in Shankill, I ask innocently?

NO. MCKITTICK FEDDC "But there's not usually a comma in the middle of 'No Surrender'." Then he smiles

quietly to himself. In Lebanon, the graffiti is more rhetorical, declarative.
"Nasser - light, brotherhood,
unity," it says down the road. from my Beirut home. "Support the resistance - crush Zionism." The Palestinians used to have a poster which proclaimed to its warriors that we shall stand in the last trench against the Zionist death wagon", a remark which made up in enthusiasm what it lacked passion. But in both countries, the real questions are the same. Who are these messages for? What is the purpose of the wall paintings of the Irish famine and King Billy? To preach to the converted? To reduce the complex to the simplistic? To avoid argument? Or to instruct us that hatred and fear and anger and a sense of injustice have a greater integrity - and are buried deeper - than

then the weath

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Tomorrow: Robert Fisk talks to Gerry Adams and Ian Paisley.

There's no disguising problem toenails



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Every plucky underdog has his day

swift, nor the battle to the strong, but that's the way to bet", said Damon Runyon, thus reflecting the great truth that the favourite is not often passed in the last furlong by an outsider. The favourite usually wins, yes. On the other hand, that is not always enough to make him popular. It is the underdog that people want to win, the little guy that nobody fancies.
There is nothing quite like seeing Holyfield dump Tyson on his backside, or Sri Lanka thrash the world at one-day cricket, or Wrexham beat Birmingham and go on to take the FA Cup. (The latter is just wishful thinking from a Wrexham supporter, and has not actually happened yet in this space-time continuum.)

But the underdog can only win for a while before things change. Once the underdog starts winning, he isn't going to be the underdog for long or quite so popular, or not in the same way. Tim Henman will never quite be the dark horse again, the brave little struggler - indeed, one day soon. Henman will be upset by an underdog, and my

Tuesday's paper? "Henmar beaten by unknown." Henman, 17th in the world put out of first round of the Dubai Open by the German world. A new underdog!

So the big guy can never be the underdog. The only way in which the big guy can ever achieve underdog status is by pretending to be, by rolling over on his back and looking temporarily helpless Here is an interesting thought on the film Independence Day by Phil Raby, the excellent film critic of the Bath Chronicle.

"It (the film) fulfils all the necessary conditions of the way Americans see themselves: unprovoked attack from out of nowhere by vastly superior faceless forces and defeat staring them in the face. Then comes retaliation and, against all the odds, victory. It's strange how the most powerful nation on Earth needs to see itself as a plucky underdog when, for the most part, its foreign policy has consisted of crushing plucky underdogs, but self-delusion is a common phenomenon.



Miles Kington

Maybe it was for psychological reasons like this that McDonald's made the strange decision to take the McLibel two to court. Maybe McDonald's felt terribly, helplessly threatened by these two people handing out leaflets outside one of their London branches. Maybe McDonald's felt impelled to send in the lawyers to handle the two protesters in the same way that America used to feel impelled to send in military advisers to recalcitrant places, or to isolate them in

the same way America tries to isolate Fidel Castro (and thus help to make him the world's longest-surviving leader). Whatever the reason, McDonald's must now be regretting its decision to blast the underdogs, as it must have lost them a lot of friends. It certainly helped decide me never to go înside a McDonald's joint again, though in all honesty I cannot remember being a friend of McDonald's

And it has all happened again this week with the news that the big boys in the whisky industry are trying to squash a tiny firm in the Isle of Man which is putting out "Manx whiskey". As far as I can gather, they don't actually want the firm to disappear. They just want them to stop calling it whiskey and start calling it Manx Magic or TT Thunder or something. Glen Kella Whiskey, as it is called, offends the mighty Scotch Whisky Association because it is not actually made on the Isle of Man - it is Scotch whisky bought in Scotland and redistilled to remove the colouring. You mustn't fiddle with whisky, says the SWA, or comes out of the cask after maturing is the real thing and shouldn't be fiddled with, as the bad boys of Glen Kella

are doing.

Now, quite apart from the distasteful sight of the huge industry combining to squash one little Manxman, the big boys are on dodgy ground here, because THEY too fiddle with whisky after it has matured and left the cask.

I am not referring here to the stuff called blended whisky, the Bell's and Famous Grouse and Teacher's and all that, which: is a mystery to everyone because it combines an unspecified amount of unnamed malt whisky with an unspecified amount of nameless grain spirit coming

from no one knows where. Nor am I referring to the way whisky is reduced in strength by the addition of water, which it is. No. I am referring to the fact that even the so-called real thing, single malt whisky, is also tampered with by the industry after it

has left the cask. More on this tomorrow, if I haven't been arrested by the

whisky police.

THE INDEPENDED

IRA prisoners in the Eights would claim that I me les Comp with "ware than Belon Only last month, the Northe Ircland Office was proposed male a televrsion adventions suggesting that municular Bellast could be compared the persecution of leaving war Cierman, Nebuh muh allowed to place elemen perspective.

mon: Stephen Davison Pacents

In Ballymurphy, tour un MCB in plans watch our care pictoresty "Social worker McKittrick says, only glang at me afterwards to seed caught his need The walls were painted

familian. "We learne to the by the Hearthand of Uster: Is Or Like a Freemanle School Like a Feman Ske Smerikill Road No Surends isn'i there in "h" i Shankell, Losk innevents - "No." Ale Kittrick reple

there's not usualti camma in the middle of 9 Surrender'." Then he see quieth to hunselt.

In Lebanon, the graffin more thetorical declima "Name" light brothense matty." If was shown the me from my Berrat home. 39 port the resistance - and Zionism" The Palestant there to have a poster that proclaimed to its warnersh trench against the Zonskitz wagini, a temat which me up in entires arm what it lake t. in passaon flor in both of lines, the real que tropened Man the these makes bit What is the purpose of wall paintings of the list famme and King Bills preach to the contents reduce the complex to these plater lieurent nguncaft to metrici is that hatted at fear and anyer and a specmpatice has a greater man and are builted deeper-the 性本に

CHIR'S shift of the cask alle Butter use is the and think and dentifier be fablics with the had been of Color Kills News, quete apart from the are doubt.

dimestatis sight of the high tope little Managan the be par are the sporter demand Peter persua, 1311 A par Bell, with a book diet i be matured and left the cash -I am that released here to the stuff called blended blended the facility and blended the facility Transfer Colores and that a less a mestery to escrepe. because if combales in sense thed amount of mental mile which with imperited afferred of meles grant spirit com green all out games a page Pier att I referrible for which is to have in the state of the state o

motoring to the fact that the substrance to the fact that the substrance of the fact that the substrance of the fact that the fa

England, stop whingeing about a Scottish parliament y English political friends: listen to yourquestion (which can have the fuzz taken out of it by the removal of some Scottish MPs words about a Scottish parlia-



ment, but to how you say them!

constitutional anomalies and

risks. Yes, these should be

pointed at and argued about.

But in the reaction from Tory

politicians, newspapers and commentators to Opposition

plans for an Edinburgh legisla-

ture, there is more than proper

scepticism. There is an edge, and it is an angry, cutting one. Suddenly, like livid fungi,

ugly old stereotypes are swelling. The Scots are "wkingeing". They are greedy, idle: taking kind-hearted old

England for a ride. They are "feather-bedded". They must

be made to pay - cut, suffer - formaying their parliament.

commuter leaves his mortgage-

subsidised suburban home to

public transport to a job in a tangenter-funded government office, passing electronics and

office, passing electronics and define factories whose wealth

contes from state contracts,

and sitting there, smoulders

with anger at the thought of those kilted con artists living so

high on the hog in Govan or

Graithnock, he is carrying on a

It goes back at least to 1603, and the arrival of King James

VI and I in London with his ret-

inue of Edinburgh hangers-on.

It grew in heat during the Civil

War, blazed brightly after the

Act of Union, and still crackled

happily in Georgian England. The self-confidence of the

British Empire, a joint project,

followed by world wars, sub-dued English resentment of

uppity Scots and helped to

cement Britishness. But it

Thames, as we call it now).

standing?

debate has already begun to fan anti-Scottish sentiments at Westminster which are as clear,

though thankfully not quite as anatomically

precise, as those I and my son endured

recently at Twickenham (or Flodden-by-

I am never quite sure whether English Tory

critics of Scottish Home Rule are warning that

it might break up the Union, or half-hoping

that it will. There should be, at any rate, a

proper accounting. If Scottish public spend-

ing is higher, because of urban deprivation

and rural emptiness, then what about Scot-

land's contribution to the UK's finances and

berths, and her weighted voting in the EU and

her seat on the Security Council? This is not

to make a petty political-accountant's point,

but to remind English readers that there is a

deal, an agreement which benefits both sides

yes, you as well.
Would that be terminally jeopardised, as

John Major suggests, by Scotland's ability to

choose her own way more clearly in education

policy, transport strategy and health? If both

sides wanted a divorce it could certainly be

used as an excuse. But there is no sign that

they do. Far from provoking a constitutional

What about not only oil and gas, but also

long English tradition.

el by subsidised London

In fact, when the southern

Yes, devolution would create

Andrew Marr

Failure is always possible. But what we need in Britain, surely, is more diversity and

It could finally tackle High-land land reform. It might, perhaps, go further towards enexperiment vironmental politics than the south is ready to. It could cre-ate a proper lobby for Scottish not less interests in Brussels. It could ...

Enough. You get the pic-ture. It is, of course, possible that, instead, a Scottish parliaremains an uneasy union. The devolution ment will consist of beer-slobbering, expensefiddling third-raters who begin by losing the public's attention, and then throw away its support. But failure is possible for all parliaments everywhere. The interesting question isn't the old, nationalist one of which tribe or territory is covered by which boxful of politicians, but, rather, whether they have

from Westminster) but the

much harder question of whether or not a Scottish par-

liament can make itself useful.

This is the real and so far unan-

swered challenge for Scottish

politics, but it is one with rele-

vance for other democracies,

bloody politicians, sticking their

car in, when we already pay enough? That is the big ques-tion, what we might call the West European question, which

should resonate everywhere.

Scottish voters, like other voters

are unlikely to call for much

higher taxes on themselves. Given that, what real differ-

ence could an Edinburgh parlia-

Intellectually disabled by chronic optimism, I still think the answer, for creative and

ambitious politicians, is - a lot. It could show how a modern

legislature might free itself of Westminster's Gothick self-

importance, and reconnect with

sceptical citizens. It could help to rebuild the striking Scottish-

ness of Scottish education, a hard-headed, philosophical style of learning that has been almost, but not quite, forgotten.

This would be done not by bar-

ring English students, but by

reforming the curriculum, and

management of schools and

ment make?

Who needs another pile of

the wit and programme to make a difference And what we need in Britain, surely, is more diversity and experiment, not less. Scottish charities and public bodies, advocates and educationists, investment houses and ministers are all subtly different in their attitudes and instincts from their rivals in London. Who would wish it otherwise? And we need comparison and competition in political attitudes Britain's defence posture, with the Trident

and political processes as well as in commerce.
We are alive in a multi-ethnic, interwoven country afloat in a similar sort of world. The London-based Independent is part-owned by Irishmen and Spaniards, and edited by a Scot, while The Scotsman is owned, and now edited, by the English.

Chippiness should be kept for the sports arenas and the back bar. What matters is what is done, and how well - not, any longer, who does it. If a Scottish parliament works, it will be a source of inspiration and enlightenment for English democrats. If it doesn't, it will be an equally useful and relatively painless les-

crisis, I'd have thought most English voters So, my English friends, democrats all -What matters is not the West Lothian please relax.

From musical magic to movie mayhem

spate of nostalgic musicals movie around, but instead of being uplifting. which you might expect of any musical, let alone offerings that evoke the past, they are mostly rather nasty. Only one, The Umbrellas of Cherbourg, is a must-watch. Wouldn't you know it? It's French. And it's not merely about the past, it's old (1964). Its director, Jacques Denry, made no bones from the start: his film was to be deliberately, perhaps even kitschly, enchanting. It was to recapture the romantic exhilaration of a seaside adolescence.

The other films, new and newish, not merely lack charm, but talk about the past for an age and perhaps a society which assumes that charm must be weak-minded, patronising and phoney. Somewhere between musicals such as South Pacific or West Side Story and now, we lost the ability to see that toughness and tenderness can flourish without descending into vio-lence or sentimentality. And perhaps we also put in peril the means of living happily together. Even the sensibly liberal film censor James Ferman bemoans the modern sea of blood and sees it as a problem unique in the cinema's history, and a threat to our well-being. It is unlikely that he was thinking of musicals when he considered the depraying effects of

But he might have. Take, for instance, the brilliant new Robert Altman film, Kansas City. It is, as his Short Cuts would make one expect, noir and - as the cliche has it closely observed. Altman's story-telling (rich dopehead kid-napped by flaky incompetent) is gripping and gives him lots of opportunities for vignettes of real insight. The result is a musi-cal because, throughout the action, jazz musicians are play-ing themselves playing the classics of the Thirries, and because it is clear from the start that the idea of a music-mad town is

what motivates the enterprise. All in all it is a triumph of style and intelligence, with the grip of a Raymond Chandler. Except that at one point in the film there is a stylish beating of great savagery and improbability. I didn't believe a beating like that would have taken place in the circumstances, and even if it had, we didn't need to be shown it. I found myself withdrawing from the whole film on account of this folly, which was probably only included as a necessary

The Who's album Quadrohenia, one of the best sustained works by any rock band, was recorded in 1973 and made into a film in 1979. The movie was made in the punk era, when nastiness was even more chic than usual among film-makers seeking to make a mark. The



Pretty but profound: Catherine Deneuve in Demy's 'Umbrellas of Cherbourg'

Directors seem to have lost the ability to make films that are both charming and tough-minded, yet do not descend into violence

film, though not the previous the natural way of their grand- ling issue of just how much of Rockers on Brighton beach in the early Sixties. So far as I can gather, these were more like the ritual displays of mating birds than real war, but that wouldn't do for the film-makers. Franc Roddam, the director, portrays the Mods as nasty pieces of work, and depicts what were probably occasional serious incidents as routine.

In the late Seventies, the Who put out an album called The Kids Are Abright, and I wore one of the badges advertising it. The odd thing is that the kids more or less are and were all right, but not as por-trayed by the Who's film. In any case their being all right is not much enhanced by a constant diet of tricked-up nastiness such as Quadrophenia. Young people seeing the film will think that contrived unpleasantness is that generation) and may as well not be eschewed now. Evita is closer to the old

model of musical than the others, simply because it was a fully-fledged stage show before being got up in celluloid. It can claim to be romantic, though of course it romanticises a tricky era of history rather than the mating game. The music in Evita is surprisingly engaging. The performances are good, including Madonna's. And yet the film is a rather nasty piece of work. Leave aside that it celebrates a dictator's wife. more to the point is that one is given very little reason for lik ing anyone in the piece, except perhaps the dictator himself, since he does at least seem to be in love. There is a peculiar disjunction between soaring love songs (and even elegiac patriotic songs) and the troub-

score, dwells on the tribal confathers (Mods have become a frost Evila really was. It doesn't seem to have occurred to anyone that it was necessary to make it clear where the film thought the truth might lie, and whether it redeems or condemns Eva Peron. It would have helped if the film had implied that its point of view is that such things don't matter, and that what does matter is to portray how interesting Evita is. But she isn't, on this account: Evita is not much more than a wall of sound and some frocks. (By the way, this is pretty obviously a "chick" movie: let's release in an houses around the have no nonsense about

women being more scrupulous in these matters.) Alan Parker is a wonderfully

talented director, but his tastelessness here should be no surprise: The Commitments, rather like the Who's Quadrophenia. seemed to suppose that no working-class young people could be depicted without plenty of hitting going on. It's as though only the fist conveys authenticity.

There is no hitting at all in The Umbrellus of Cherbourg, set in the late Fifties or very early Sixties. The film is instead mag-ical. Never since Salud Days or The Renfriend, which belong to the Fifties, have the British produced a musical halt so romantic. Salad Days was, of course, satirical (it reminds one mostly of the style of the pocket cartoons of Osbert Lancaster, with shades of John Minton's drawings of sunny and youthful hoys and girls), and was fresh as springtime. Umbrellas is equally sharp in its observation. It is set in the real Cherbourg. and in a real garage. A mechanic falls in kwe with a girl in a real shop. The pettiness of her mother's social code, and her ambition for her daughter. ensure that their romance fails. But then you notice that the colours of this world are mostly pastel, and mostly clash.

The current showings demand to be seen because Demy's foresight has meant that an exquisite restoration of the prints has been possible. There is a sort of Absolutely Fubulous passion for the just slightly sub-fluorescent. This colouring seems designed to express the idea of people surfing giddy emotions: they are lit-erally a rosy view of youthful passion. But the young of Cherbourg face reality too. The film's themes are death, separation and disappointment.

Everybody ends up happy enough but with second-class or at any rate second-hand love. It is a plot of microscopic proportions but nice symmetries and the outcome is neither saccharine nor shallow. While the film is sweet, it is not sentimental. It is in fact a deep piece of work, and certainly deeper about human, and especially youthful, motivation than Evita and the rest, it is a film for those prepared to cry, to enjoy understated pleasures. Above all it is for those rare moderns: people who are frightened of the modern fashion for aggression and rudeness.

'Umbrellas of Cherbourg' is on

Life or death? We must all decide

loaked in its usual secrecy, last week the Medicines Control Agency made an important decision, yet to be announced. They agreed to license a new drug called Aricept, the first to make any improvement in the mental state of Alzheimer's patients. Now stand back and await the stampede.

would barely notice.

What are health authorities to do? There are some 650,000 patients with dementia. (Twothirds of them have Alzheimer's, but identifying which ones have it is difficult.) The drug will cost £100 a month per patient. In April, when it will probably become available, around half a million patients - or their carers - will head straight for their GPs to ask for the only treatment for this disease that has been proven to

do any good at all. Already the word is spreading fast. When I first called the Alzheimer's Society an overenthusiastic worker told me that the new drug could make a 30 per cent improvement in the brain function of many sufferers. Later, their executive director was more circumspect. Certainly there are improvements for some, he agreed, but better cognitive ability in remembering numbers in lab-oratory tests does not necessarily translate into people being able to find their way to

the lavatory. However, he had heard of



Polly Toynbee

If every treatment is a question of cost, the NHS will become a US-style safety net for the very poor

previously helpless patients taking part in the drug trials who had suddenly been able to write a shopping list, then go down to the shop and ask for everything on it. It will only take a few stories like that to make desperate carers frantic to get their bands on the drug. So if half a million people

demand the drug, it will cost some £600,000. How is the NHS to decide who gets it, and at what opportunity cost to other patients? Ask any politician and they

run a mile. Rationing? What rationing? I see no rationing. "Priority setting", perhaps, but the word "rationing" does not cross their lips. The official line is that each health authority must decide how to spend their allocated funds according to local needs - as if these diseaces were local. Never has the cause of devolution been so passionately espoused as by our Pontius Pilate health ministers over the past few years.

Aricept helps the memory of those in the early and middle stages of Alzheimer's, but not the painful process of disintegration of the personality. The drug may not make much difference to the amount of care they need, so it may not save care costs. Indeed, it could prolong the life of some and, if it were mistakenly prescribed to the already seriously affected, it could prolong their right people get it, that is still some 200,000 - a hefty extra bill for health authorities.

Already, new and expensive drugs are being denied to many patients: Beta Interferon for multiple sclerosis sufferers, Epo for kidney patients. Rilutek for motor neurone disease. Worst of all is the failure to prescribe Clozapine for many schizophrenics, which would transform the lives of one-third of them and make another third significantly better. (Clozapine costs £5 a day, while the far less effective Largactil costs only 8p a day, and has bad side effects that mean patients often resist taking it.)

The mentally ill and those with rare conditions tend to be low priorities - and patients are still surprisingly patient. But Alzheimer's will be another story. There is barely a family in the land that does not fear it. There will be no holding back this tide of demand

So what should health authorities do? Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Health Authority are trying to confront the problem rationally. They are about to bandle a request for funding one patient who will cost them £750,000 a year. Who is to take such lifeand-death decisions? They have decided in these cases to call a meeting of the 13 memmisery. But assuming only the bers of the authority, and to let

them make their decision in public. They first did this recently

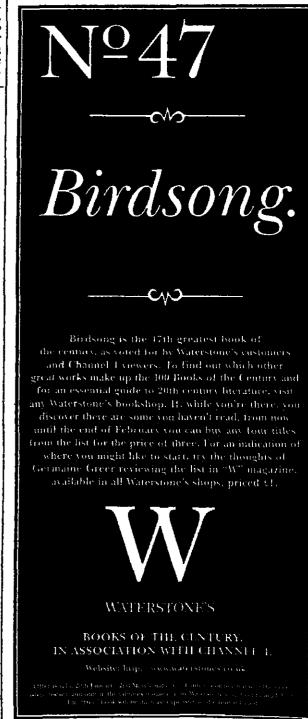
when lack of funding stopped all waiting list surgery - but no members of the public turned up. They will do it again with this current case, keen to involve the public in making choices and gradually to educate people into thinking about rationing. Each difficult case that gets publicised, such as that of Jaymee Bowen, the child who was initially refused a new cancer treatment partly because of cost, teaches people a little more of the language of priorities. But when we, the public, have thought about it, what then? Can we stomach joining in the decision to let someone - or thousands - die for lack of money?

Consider another dilemma facing this same London health authority: their waiting list for angioplasty, a heart operation, is now so long that some will die because they cannot be treated in time. Should the authority warn those on the list, so that they have the chance to save their lives by buying private treat-ment - admitting that the rich will live and the poor will die? They are still chewing over the precise wording of this difficult

If many state-of-the-art treatments are denied on the basis of cost, this will rapidly destroy the NHS as a universal service; all who can will buy the drug or the operation pri-vately and the NHS will become an American-style safety net 'offering old-fashioned, cheap treatment to the poor. It may not take very much of a squeeze to push us from one system to the other. It does not need any right-wing conspiracy to kill off the NHS - underfunding will do it just as well.

Despite a lot of crying wolf (not from me) the NHS has been just sufficiently funded over the past 17 years of Conservative government. But this year the health service budget has taken a plunge. While it has averaged 2.6 per cent real growth since 1979, it will get a meagre 0.9 per cent this year, 0,8 per cent next year and -0.2 per cent the year after, while its costs soar.

Gordon Brown, Labour's would-be Chancellor, has signed up to keep within that impossible budget. So might Labour find itself presiding over a mass move into the private sector? All the evidence is that our tax-based system is far cheaper for everyone especially for the better off.
Will public airing of NHS
funding dilemmas persuade
people that they need to pay more tax to keep the health service at the cutting edge of medicine? It may be angry Alzheimer's families that force



Anthony Baines

inthony Baines was a writer on surs, from 1970 to 1980, curaor of the Bate Collection of listorical Wind Instruments Oxford University.

Baines did not set out on a nusical career. First a King's cholar at Westminster School. e won a scholarship to read hemistry at Christ Church. Oxord. It was at Westminster nat he was first gripped by muic. The resident King's Scholrs got dressed each morning to lassical overtures played on the ramophone by the senior boys. here he started learning clarnet and bassoon, and collectng musical instruments. At ord, afternoons were spent yeling around Oxfordshire (his notorcycle having been sold to uy a saxophone), scouring inkshops for instruments. In he evenings he indulged his we of jazz by playing clarinet nd sax in a jazz band as well s playing bassoon at every

After Oxford, Baines went to he Royal College of Music. there he was awarded an open cholarship on the bassoon and tudied orchestration with Gorlon Jacob. In 1935 he joined Sir homas Beecham's London 'hilharmonic as bassoon and ontra bassoon player.

At the outbreak of the Secand World War there were no ommissions for men of his ge so, using slightly unconentional means of producing he required papers, he went to iwansea where he found a ılace as an Ordinary Seaman in he Merchant Navy. On his reurn he received a commission o the Tanks Regiment and hen volunteered for service in he Middle East.

In 1942 he was wounded in iction, captured and eventualv sent by train, via Italy, to a risoner-of-war camp in Gernany. On this journey, he esaped twice: first from the noving train and later, when he vas recaptured, from a truck. The second time he was with a group of Sikhs who, incredibly, vere still in possession of their mives. Baines borrowed a knife and cut his way out of the canas truck. For six months, whilst in the run, he was disguised as in Italian shepherd and was

only betrayed by the tins of Gold the collection of the Victorian justical instruments and for 10 Flake tobacco in his pocket. It remained a source of pride to him that after this there was a price on his head.

Once in the prisoner-of-war camp he did much for morale by arranging the music he could remember for any instruments there, including such unique combinations as banjo and double bass. In time the Red Cross sent a more conventional consignment of instruments. Among many other works he arranged and conducted completely from memory was

Beethoven's Eroica Symphony. After demob in 1945 he returned to the LPO until appointed Assistant Conductor. From 1950 he was Associate Conductor of the International Ballet Company up to the disbandment of the company in 1954. It was there, in 1950, that he met the oboist Patricia Stammers (now known as an authority on hand-woven textiles and also the author of several books), who became his wife in 1960. His first publications, performing editions of early music, appeared at this time, together with articles on musical instruments for the fifth edition of Grove's Dictionary (1954).

Since the war Baines's collection of instruments had grown by leaps and bounds, and he had a growing circle of likeminded friends. Together, in 1946 they formed the Galpin Society, named (at Baines's suggestion) after the foremost British authority and collector up to that time, Canon Francis Galpin. The Galpin Society Journal, which Baines was to edit for 21 years, was the first ever dedicated to musical instruments.

In 1955 he decided to concentrate on research and writing and left the performing world to become bandmaster at Uppingham School followed by a spell at Dean Close, Cheltenham. His first full book. Woodwind Instruments and Their History, was published in 1957. This was followed by a monograph, Bagpipes, on the Pitt Rivers Museum's collection. in 1960, European and American Musical Instruments in 1967 and the official catalogue of non-keyboard instruments in ments (1992) being his last

and Albert Museum in 1968. Baines was appointed first

Lecturer/Curator of the Bate Collection of Historical Wind Instruments in 1970, where he stayed until his retirement in 1980. His book Brass Instruments was published in 1976 foilowed by numerous articles for the New Grove's Dictionary.

From the time he was in the Army he had used his collection of instruments to illustrate his lectures; about the time of his marriage he had sold most of his collection to Philip Bate. Now he had them to hand once more and enjoyed the use of them both in lectures and, the Bate Collection being a playing collection, he founded the Bate Band, which gave concerts of Haydn and Mozart on the collection's instruments. These were among the earliest performances of music of this period on original instruments. Those who attended his lectures will not forget them, not only because of the content of his teaching and the depth of his learning, but also because of his own inimitable lecturing style and his endearing battles with modern technology.

Baines was elected a Supernumerary Fellow of University College, Oxford, in 1975 and, on retirement in 1980, an Ordinary Fellow of the British Academy for services to music. Whatever Baines did he did

with enthusiasm and thoroughness. Recuperating after an accident he noticed the "weeds" in the garden; this grew into a passionate hobby and he produced beautiful botanical notebooks recording the wild flowers he saw. During the last four years of his life he found another interest; drawing and pastel painting. He was equally enthusiastic in his support of his wife's work and interests: and it is his line drawings which illustrate her book Spinning Wheels, Spinners and Spinning (1977). Visitors to their Oxford home will remember the flax and woad grown in the garden which Baines helped to prepare for spinning and dyeing.

On retirement Tony Baines continued to write, The Oxford Companion to Musical Instru-



Baines: concerts of Havdn and Mozart on original instruments

book. In 1985 he was awarded the Curt Sachs Award of the American Musical Instrument Society's Curt Sachs Award; and in 1994 he was given an honorary Doctorate of Music at Edinburgh University. He remained characteristically unassuming. On hearing of the dedication of the Baines Music Garden at the Pitt Rivers Museum as an 80th birthday present (in part a thank-you for his authorship of the museum's best-seller. Bugpipes, which has been constantly in print since publication), he was thrilled. But why should they do that for

Hélène La Rue

Anthony Cumbert Baines, musician, conductor, scholar of musical instruments: born London 6 October 1912; member. London Philharmonic Orchestra 1935-39, 1946-49; Associate Conductor, International Ballet Co 1950-54; member, music staff, Uppinghum School 1954-65; Editor, Galpin Society Journal 1956-63, 1970-84; member, music staff, Dean Close School 1965-70: Lecturer and Curator, Bate Collection of Historical Wind Instruments, Oxford University 1970-80; Fellow, University College, Oxford 1974-80: FB.4 1980; married 1960 Patricia Stammers; died Farnham, Surrey 2 February 1997.

Stephen Rees Jones

Stephen Rees Jones trained a generation of paintings conservators at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London. He was Head of the Technology Department of the institute for 25 years, from 1951 to 1976.

His most important legacy is the establishment of formal postgraduate training in paintings conservation which he achieved just before his retirement. This consolidated irreversibly the transformation of a profession which had relied on traditional apprenticeships, instating academic values, a spirit of learning and self-criticism and a multidisciplinary approach combining elements from

science, art history and fine arts. Born in 1909, he was educated at Flintshire Grammar School, and studied Physics at the University College of North Wales at Bangor. In 1935 he became a research assistant at the newly created Scientific Department of the Courtauld Institute of Art where he worked with W.G. Constable, D.V. Thompson and others laying the foundations for technical studies of the arts.

During the Second World War he went to work for the Ministry of Aircraft Production. He returned to the Courtauld Institute after the war and in 1951 became Head of the Technology Department. He was very much the lone scientist in an institute dedicated to art history but he began to engender in the art history students an appreciation of the material nature of paintings. This was sometimes a daunting task since there were few textbooks or experts to turn to and the students frequently had very little grounding in science.

In the main, his information came from the technical exammation of paintings which was gradually developing during this period. Microscopy, technical photography, emission specrography and X-radiography were his principal tools. Even the most impractical undergraduates received the experience of seeing a painting through a binocular microscope and came away acutely conscious of the delicacy of its surface.

The methods of examination developed at the Courtauld, the National Gallery and elsewhere have transformed our un-

derstanding of paintings. Recs Jones undertook systematic Xradiography of the paintings that came into the department and in this way extended the scope of connoisseurship to otherwise invisible aspects of paintings. He collected a useful group of fakes and copies for study purposes and a small museum of pigments. He built Xray diffraction equipment for the analysis of crystalline pigments. He had to be resourceful and the accumulation of a body of knowledge was a slow process. Gradually there developed a wider appreciation of what was being achieved and interest grew. Rees Jones was then able to attract students to investigate conservation problems such as the action of solvents on paintings and bet-ter methods of lining. He built the first hot-table for the wax-

important innovation. He also played a part in the formation of the main professional bodies of conservation, the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic works (IIC) in 1950 and its UK group, now the UKIC.

lining of canvas paintings, an

The value of his work became evident to a wider audience during the cleaning controversy of the 1960s. Renewed interest in the removal of discoloured varnish, in particular through the work of Ruhemann at the National Gallery during the 1940s and 1950s, led to a fierce dispute. Rees Jones was able to provide a balanced and objective view that was also independent of the National Gallery. His contribution to the debate helped to dispel some of the wilder allegations and helped focus on the scientific issues, in particular the potential for leaching of low molecular weight material from the paint film by the action of cleaning solvents.

All this work was carried out at 20 Portman Square. The Technology Department was confined to the bottom of the garden in the former coachhouse and stables. There Rees Jones pieced together a complex of tiny studios and laboratories where his enthusiasm and imagination could flourish undisturbed. Training in conservation was at first on an ad hoc basis; only a few students could be taken. Eventually the course became mure secure with a small but regular intake. Then, in 1976, it finally became a full three-year postgraduate diploma course and Rees Jones was acknowledged with a Chair Emeritus. By his retirement the work of his department had reached its highest standard, in particular the research that was so much needed by the new profession.

His department continues to flourish and Rees Jones, folkwing his retirement to Sussex, continued to publish arcane but interesting calculations, for instance, on the optics of paint films or the diffusion of moisture in wood. He was also Professor of Chemistry at the Royal Academy of Arts, an honorary post that involved a series of lectures to art students.

Stephen Rees Jones will be remembered fondly by his stu-



Rees Jones: unpredictable

dents for his enquiring mind and the enthusiasm that he brought to his subject. He was a smiling, diminutive figure, unpredictable but never unreliable. When students became too tiresome and a discussion too involved he had the knack of disappearing through one of the many interconnecting doors in the department. No one knew exactly how he managed to slip away but the message was clear - think out problems for yourself: an important lesson for aspiring conservators.

Stephen Hackney

Stephen Rees Jones, art conservationist: born Holywell, Flintshire 1 September 1909; married 1939 Margaret Laffineur (died 1994; two sons); died Lewes, East Sussex 17 December

Chico Science

Thico Science was one of the nost internationally promising ncreasingly important nation in erms of the global music in-Justry. Brazil became the world's sixth largest recorded nusic market last year.

Against the background of a nusic scene containing many ock, rap and ballad performers. ne managed to find a formula which struck both Brazilians and European, American and lapanese "world music" conumers as original and distinctive of his region, and his two CD aloums and international tours had been extremely well received.

Chico Science was born Franisco de Assis Franca in 1967 in the tropical north-eastern city of Recife, which adjoins the reautiful and decaying 18thcentury colonial centre Olinda. The local traditional music of Pernambuco State, of which Recife is the capital, includes last drum rhythms such as the frevo, embolada, coco de roda, and above all maracaut, which animates Recife's big carnival. It was the incorporation of these into a mix of heavy rock, distinct punk references, and



rap which coalesced around 1993 into a mix that came to be called mangue (mangrove beat, after the local vegetation).

Chico Science's early musical influences were mainly black American - James Brown, the Sugar Hill Gang, Grandmaster Flash - who he listened to with his street chums in the Rio Doce suburb on the edge of Olinda in the early Eighties. By 1984 he had joined an informal neighbourhood street band called the Hip Hop Legion, then a rock band called Orla Orbe, and by the end of the decade had catchphrase which summed up Science's theory, became the title of his second aloum in 1005.

comic illustrator of that name. In 1991, having acquired his stage name, Chico Science, as a self-proclaimed "scientist of sound", he brought together

percussionists from an Afrocentric Olinda group named Lamento Negro with his rock colleagues and created Nacao Zumbi ("Nation of Zumbi"), the group he led to fame, named after the leader of a 19thcentury slave revolt. Other cultural heroes name-checked in the introduction to the group's first album, Da Lama Ao Caos ("From Mud To Chaos", 1994). included Zapata, Sandino, the Black Panthers and Lam-piao. a 19th-century bandit from the Brazilian bush whose legend features strongly in the country folk

into the musical mix. To accompany his music, Science developed a cultural theory, as his 1970s role models. northern singers like Gillerto Gil. had done with "Tropicalism". "Afrociberdelia", the

Births: Charles Darvin, naturalist

Hospitaller, St Ludan, St Marina or

Institute of Economic Affairs, Lon-

don SW1: David Starkie, "Allocating

Airport Slots: a rule for the market?

The Hon Nicholas Soames MP, Min-

ister of State for the Armed Forces,

was the host at a luncheon held yes-

terday at Admiralty House, London SWL in honour of Sheikh Hamad bin

Isa Al-Khalifa, Crown Prince of the

State of Bahrain and Commander-in-

Pelagia and St Meletius.

Lectures

Luncheons

Ministry of Defence

Anniversaries

literature Science incorporated

cybernetics, and "psychedelia", as "a creative mixture of tribal and high tech elements" and "the art of mapping the collective unconscious via electronic stimuli, verbal automatism and intense movement."

In 1994, American and Swiss entrepreneurs at a Brazilian music festival were impressed by Science's performance - which I recall as very energetic and very loud - and a successful European and American tour followed. Major Brazilian popular singers such as Maria Bethania were beginning to use Science's songwriting talents and the future looked rosy. Had his car not been hit by another on the outskirts of Olinda last week, Science and his band would have been, for the first time, the star attraction of the Recife carnival, perched atop a huge trio eletrico sound truck, thundering through the streets of their home city.

Philip Sweeney

Francisco de Assis Franca (Chico Science), singer: born Recife, Brazil 1967; died Olinda, Brazil 2 February 1997.

formed his own group, Loustal, The album's sleeve notes explain If ever there was a heyday for in Munich, in which she vied gan a branch of her career which bon Story and The Merry Widin homage to the French adult the term, a hybrid of "Africa". English musical comedy it must with the resident prima donna. was to mean a great deal to her ow and Bitter Sweet, and did a have been when Eve Lister joined its ranks. She had all the qualities - looks, charm, warmth of temperament, sympathy, gentleness, a good voice and a pleasing manner. It was part of her appeal that she should be content not to push

herself into the limelight but to

occupy it when required. A grandmother, an aunt, an uncle and both parents had all served on the boards; and no sooner had young Eve come forward as a Cochran young lady in Noël Coward's revue Words and Music at the Adelpos in 1932 than this delightful creature was evidently going to sustain the Lister tradition. As she stood in that crowd-

ed chorus line – the cast numbered over a hundred ~ Cochran could see that his latest "young lady" need never play another. She had a leading part in his next production, Music in the .4ir (His Majesty's). It was that of a simple Bavarian village girl in Jerome Kern

duction of a new musical play

Did she triumph? She did not. But Lister's "virginal beauty and freshness" were enchanting enough to have made her a

star overnight. The Play Picto-

rial featured her lovely fea-

tures on four successive pages. Her vanity however did not and never would extend to even a cuttings book. After Music in the Air she spent four years in films (including several for John Baxter, Birds of a Feather, Sunshine Ahead, and The Girl in the Crowd); but at the same time be-

and Oscar Hammerstein's latest musical play, about the pro-

Lister: principal boy

- that of principal boy in pantomime. Friendly, forthright, trustworthy, she had the "go", the dash - and svelte figure - to

Eve Lister

make a star principal boy. She had the precious gift of seeming always natural. And it was touchingly exemplified in one of the dozen odd films she made in the mid-1930s, George King's Sweeney Todd (1935).

As she nearly falls victim to the eye-rolling Todd Slaughter's attempts to set her on fire, Lister has dressed herself as a barber's apprentice to track down the cockney villain; and while the film creaks her acting in its simple-hearted ease does not.

But the straight actress of the cinema rarely went straight in the theatre. After the wartime revues in Edinburgh and Glasgow of that summer season show, Half-Past Eight, came tours of musical comedies like Sidney Monckton's A Country Girl and Happy Birthday and a West End show with Nervo and Knox and Will Hay, For

Crying Out Loud (Stoll 1945). She also toured in Harold Purcell's musical play The Lis-

couple of West End musicals at the old Prince's, now the Shaftesbury (The Nightingale, 1947, and Happy as a King, 1953) and had a long run with Fred Emney and Richard Hearne in Blue for a Boy (His Majesty's, 1950) which brought enough acclaim for Marlene Dietrich as hostess at the Café de Paris to introduce her to the

cabaret audience. But the show that should have gone to Lister's head if she had had that kind of head was The King and I (Drury Lane, 1955) when she took over as Anna from Valerie Hobson. If there was anything to be gained from the change of cast, one critic declared, "It was due largely to the performance of Miss Lister" with her "excellent singing voice, warm personality, and sense of humour - and of dignity".

Adam Benedick

Phyllis Eve Lister, actress: born Brighton 12 December 1913: married first Hugh French (one son; marriage dissolved), second Bernard Hunter: died London 31

Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

BIRTHS

SANGSTER: On a February 1997, to Suzanne (nee Erylor) and Mark, a son, Rosy William, a brother for Lucy and

BROWN: On 7 February, Demys Dewning, formerly of the Foreign Office, and of P&O: dearly loved husband of PERREN: Betty, on 8 February 1997.

with great courage and dignity. Belowed mother of Peter and Nick. grandmother to Hagnah and Georgina. Funeral service to be held at St Mary's Church, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, at 10,30am on Wednesday 19 February. No flowers please, but donations to the Burnham Museum, c/o Co-operative Funeral Service, 13-15 Market Hill, Maldon,

STEVENS COX: James, FSA, on 7 Feb-

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptious, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding auniversuries. In porizes) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2012 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at \$6.50 a line (VAT coira). OTHER Gazetic announcements must be submitted in writing (or fixed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a day-time telephone number.

Birthdays Admiral Sir Peter Abbott, Com-

mander-in-Chief, Fleet and Commander, Naval Forces, North Western Europe, 55; General Sir John Akehurst, former Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, 67; General Sir John Archer, former Commander-in-Chief, UK Land Forces, 73; Professor Arnold Beckett, pharmacist, 77; Mr Roland Boyes MP, 60; Mr Alec Carlile QC, MP, 49; Miss Annette Crosbie, actress. 63: Mr Howard Davies, Deputy Governor. Bank of England, 46; Sir James Dunnett, former senior civil servant, 83; Dr Kenneth Edwards, vice-Chancellor, Leicester University. 63; Mr Stephen Gibbs, former chairman. Turner and Newall, 77; Lord Greene of Harrow Weald, for mer trade union leader, 87: Mr Paul Humlyn, publisher, 71: Miss Christine Hancock. General Secretary, Royal College of Nursing, 54; Mr Anthouy Howard, Obituaries Editor, the Times, 63; Mr Simon MacCorkindale, ictor, 45: Sir Robin Mackworth-Young, Librarian Emeritus to the Queen, 77; Mr David MacLennan, mhassador to the Lebanon, 52; Lord Morison, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 66: Lord Moyola, former Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, 74; Mr John Rais-

udge. 65; Mr Peter Snape MP, 55;

The Hon Nicholas Sonmes MP, Min-

ster of State for the Armed Forces,

49: Mr Peter Temple-Morris MP, 59;

Sir Aubrey Trotman-Dickenson, for-

College of Cardiff, 71: Mr Gundap-pa Visvanath, cricketer, 48; Lord Wigoder OC, 76; Mr Alexander Wil-

son, librarian, 76; Mr Franco Zef-firelli, opera, theatre and film

Chief of the Bahrain Defence Forces. man, former chairman, Shell UK, 68; Sir Richard Rougier, High Court

Ms Margaret Drubble was the guest of honour at a luncheon meeting of the Maple Leaf Club held yesterday James's, Londor SW1. Mrs Judith M. Steiner. Chairman of the Club,

Ministry of Defence Mr James Arbuthnot MP, Minister of State for Defence Progurement. was the host at a dinner held yesterday at Admiralty House, London

Sabah, Minister for Defence of the State for Kuwait.

The Speaker 1809. Deaths: Law Jane Grey, Queen for nine days, executed 1553: The Speaker, Miss Betty Boothroyd Lillie Langtry, actress, 1929. On this day: the French were deleated by the held a dinner yesterday evening in Speaker's House, London SW1, in honour of Mr P.A. Sangma, the English at the Batt e of the Herrings (Rouvray), 1429, Today is the Feast Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Day of St Antony Kauleas, St Ethel-wald of Lindisfarne, St Julian the Lord Mayor of Westminster

Princess Michael of Kent was the guest of honour at a Gala Charity Dinner held yesterday evening at the Wallace Collection, London W1. The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Mr Robert Davis, and the Lady May-oress, Miss Carole Franco, were the

Foundation for Science and Technology

Lord Butterworth was in the chair at a lecture and dinner discussion held by the Foundation for Science and Technology yesterday evening at the Royal Society, London SWI. Miss J.H. Bacon, Mr Robin Grove-White and Professor Sir Tom Blun-dell spoke on "Scientific Judgement: contribution to or substitute for

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mount the Onerg's Life Quart's reform Grands, Harry Is Bastoffen Scott Guards mount, the Ousen's Guard, a Bushingham Polace, 11 Want, Sand provided by the

Decision by pensions ombudsman overruled

Haywood and another, Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Millett, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas) 28 January 1997

The Pensions Ombudsman had no jurisdiction to entertain a complaint by a retired council employee over the alleged maiadministration of his pension because the relevant payments came from the council's severance and compensation scheme, and constituted benefits for loss of employment through voluntary redundancy, and were not strictly speaking part of his pen-

sion, which came from the coun-

cil's superannuation scheme. The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by Westmin-ster City Council against the decision of Mr Justice Robert Walker, who ruled that the Pensions Ombudsman had had jurisdiction to hear a complaint against the council by Jeffrey Hawood, a retired employee, direction that the council

benefits to their former level. Mr Haywood had been told that on accepting voluntary would become entitled to immediate payment of (a) a pension of £7,376 per annum and

LAW REPORT

12 February 1997

a lump sum of £22,129 by way of superannuation benefits: (b) statutory redundancy of £11.544; and (c) a lump sum of £8,509 and an annuity of £3,950 per annum as compensation under the council's severance

and compensation scheme. Ten months after retiring, Mr Haywood was informed by letter that the council had been advised that its severance and compensation scheme was unlawful in a number of respects (because it exceeded statutory limits on such payments) and that his "gross pension" would be reduced by approximately £158 per month. The reduction came exclusively out of his com-

pensation annuity payments. The ombudsman, upholding Mr Haywood's complaint, found he had suffered injustice, in consequence of the council's maladministration, consisting in but set aside the ombudsman's the reduction of his compensation payments. The omshould restore Mr Haywood's budsman ordered the council to restore the payments to

their former level. Elizabeth Slade QC and Charles redundancy at the age of 50 he Bear (Westminster City Solicitor) for the council; Andrew Arden QC and Jonathan Manning (Paisner & Co) for the ombudsman

Lord Justice Millett said that under section 146 of the Pen-

sions Scheme Act 1993 the ombudsman had jurisdiction to investigate and determine any complaint made by an "authorised complainant", being a person who was or had been in pensionable service" under an occupational pensions scheme, who alleged that he had sustained injustice in consequence of maladministration in connection with any act or omission of the trustees or managers of administrators of the scheme.

Mr Haywood had been "in pensionable service" (as defined by section 70 of the Act) under the council's superannuation scheme. But he had not been "in pensionable service" under its severance and compensation scheme. He was not therefore an "authorised complainant" under that scheme considered on its own.

The judge held that the words "scheme" and "arrangement" in the definition of "occupational pensions scheme" in section I were of the widest scope and that the council's severance and compensation scheme and its superannuation

scheme, though differently funded, should be regarded as forming a single scheme or

arrangement. His Lordship disagreed. The two schemes had been originally established as distinct schemes, at different times, under different statutory powers, subject to different statutory regimes, for different purposes, and had always been separately funded. That the two monthly payments were paid together and charged in the first instance to the council's payroll was purely a matter of administrative convenience. They were separately calculated and must have been separately accounted for

in the council's books. It followed that the ombudsman had no jurisdiction to hear a complaint about the administration of the severance and compensation scheme.

Even if the ombudgman had had jurisdiction, he should not have directed the council to restore the monthly payments to their original level. While the reduction in the monthly payments to the maximum the council could lawfully pay undoubtedly caused Mr Haywood loss, it could not be said to constitute

Paul Magrath, Barrister

maladministration.

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THE INDEPENDENT

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business & city

Unilever sells £5bn chemical division

Disposal of interests will wipe out £1.7bn debt and provide war chest

Nigel Cope

Niall FitzGerald, the new chairman of Unilever, signalled a new era for the sprawling consumer goods conglomerate vesterday with a surprise decision to put its speciality chemicals division up for sale in a move that could raise £5bn.

The proceeds will wipe out Unilever's £1.7bn of debts and leave Mr FitzGerald with a huge war chest as he seeks to redefine Unilever as a more focused fast-moving consumer goods company similar to rivals Nestlé. Procter & Gamble and Campbell's.

Mr FitzGerald, who took over as chairman in September, said the decision was part of a plan to "de-clutter" the Unilever portfolio and concentrate on key brands which include Persil detergents, Flora margarine and ice-creams such as the Magnum and Solero.

Though the chemicals divi-sion is highly profitable, Mr FitzGerald said that 16 per cent of the business was "underperforming" and that dis-posals in the foods division would follow.

Unilever's shares put on 78.5p to £14.71p as City analysts welcomed the shake-up. Shares in Reckitt & Colman and Cadbury Schweppes also rose as industry experts said a deal in Europe or North America was

most likely.
As analysts pondered a possible re-rating of Unilever's shares, they said the bold move represented a re-invention of a company which in the past has been criticised for being cumbersome and bureaucratic.

fundamental re-evaluation of Unilever's business," one analyst said. "They are not selling the crown jewels, they are saying let's define ourselves not by our history but by what we are good at."

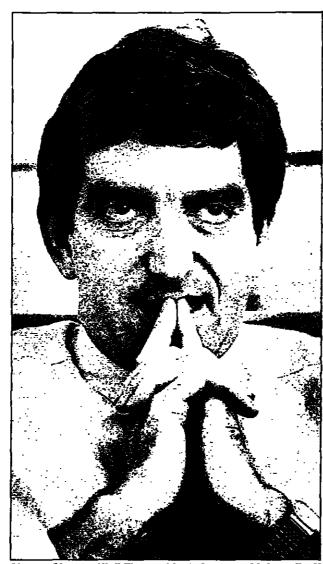
Announcing the sell-off plan Mr FitzGerald said: "This intention is a clear demonstration of our commitment to focus our attention on the fast-moving consumer product and service category and related businesses in which we excel and in which we are determined to lead the

He said the decision to exit speciality chemicals had not been easy. "It's a strategic decision to do with where we want to be in the future. We either had to double the size of the [speciality chemicals] business or get out."

Mr FitzGerald said a trade

sale was more likely than a flotation. Though he did not rule out returning cash to shareholders he expressed more interest in developing Unilever's interests in emerging markets such as China, South-east Asia, south Latin America and eastern Europe where Unilever is enjoying rapid growth.

The businesses up for sale have combined turnover of £3bn and staff of 15,800 in 35 countries. Last year they recorded combined profits of £415m. The highest price tags are likely to be attached to the National Starch and Chemical Company, which produces industrial adhesives, resins and speciality starches, and Quest International, a leading fragrances company with interests in food flavour and ingredients.



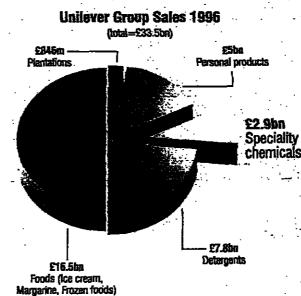
Signal of intent: Niall Fitzgeraid, chairman, said the self-off plan meant commitment in consumer products and services

two "collectors' items" was likely to spark an auction. Possible buyers for National Starch include Henckel, du Pont and Associated British Foods. Companies such as IFF and Roche

would be interested in Quest. Also up for sale is Unichema International, an oil and fats business that makes ingredients for soaps, skincare products and shampoos, and Crosfield, a pro-

Largest consumer goods companies compared. 1995 sales in \$bn Philip Morris What's for sale

The Big Unilever Shake-up



use in the petroleum and plas-

cent rise in pre-tax profits to Curtis haircare division and

of 1996. The figures were dented by £325m of exceptional The shake-up came as Mr items of which £100m related to FitzGerald announced a 15 per the integration of the Helene

ducer of inorganic chemicals for £2.6bn for the year to the end the Diversey industrial cleaning products business. Group sales were up 6 per cent at £33.5bn. The final div-

National Starch and Chemical

Company: a world wide producer

of industrial adhesives, resins and

speciality chemicals and speciality

Quest International: leading

companies in fragrances as well

as food flavour and Ingredients,

speciality oleochemicals and

Crostield; an international

nickel catalysts,

Eski vakue:

Unichema International: leader in

producer of inorganic chemicals

based upon silica and alumina

starches.

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South West Trains fined over cancelled services

Michael Harrison

Stagecoach, the bus and rail operator, is to be fined over the train crew shortages that have forced its South West Trains division to cancel commuter services into London's Waterloo station.

A spokesman for the Franchising Director, John O'Brien said yesterday that financial penalties would be levied on South West Trains under the performance regime agreed when it was awarded the sevenyear franchise a year ago.

The cancellations are a severe embarrassment for Stagecoach, which took over the franchise. promising an improved service, better trains and more; cus-

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Chris Godsmark

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tomer information. The company, headed by Brian Souter, has served actice that it intends to expand ag-gressively from the bus industry into trains. But in recent days it has lost out in the bidding for two high-profile franchises - the West Coast

Mainline and ScotRail. South West Trains commercial director, Peter Cotton, is to he quizzed about the cancellations at a meeting with a rail users' committee tomorrow evening. A spokeswoman for the London Regional Passengers Committee said: "We are concerned about what is happening and so are our passengers. We have had an influx of complaints and want to hear some answers."

The root cause of the problem is a redundancy programme introduced last month which resulted in 70 of South West Trains' 750 drivers taking voluntary severance. A spokeswoman insisted that although the company still had more drivers than it needed, it had been forced to cancel services because a number of train crews had been sent on retraining

South West Trains is one of the busiest commuter railways in Europe, operating services between London, Southampton, Weymouth and Exeter as well as suburban services to the west and south of London. It transports 300,000 passengers become more flexible, with a a day. Among the trains that have been cancelled are mainline services to Reading and peak-time commuter services.

The spokeswoman said that it had only cancelled an average of 14 services out of the 1,500 it runs every weekday but she conceded that most of these were at peak times and that it was causing inconvenience to passengers.

"We are not complacent about the cancellations and we are working hard with Aslef, the train drivers' union, to rectify the problems," she added.

Stagecoach was awarded the franchise in February last year after agreeing to operate the service with a subsidy falling from £54.7m in the first year to £40.3m in year seven. This compares with the £83.4m subsidy British Rail was budgeted to receive in 1995-96. The Office of Passenger Rail

Franchising said that it had been in contact with South West Trains and had made it plain that it expected the problems to be rectified as a matter of urgency. "It is not our job to run their business but we do have unlimited powers to penalise rail operators who fail to

deliver, a spokesman added. Under the performance regime, Opraf can penalise operators on a monthly besis if they fail to meet agreed service levels. The system is weighted so that penalties are higher if trains are cancelled at peak

Comment, page 17

Analysts said the sale of these What we are looking at is a **MMC** referral deals blow to Sears' ambition

Nigel Cope

Sears' restructuring plans ran into fresh problems vesterday when the Government said it would be referring Littlewoods' proposed acquisition of the Freemans mail order business to the Monopolies and Merg-

The referral of the £395m deal is a severe blow to Liam Strong, the beleaguered Sears chief executive, who had hoped to use the proceeds from the sale to return up to £410m to



Beleaguered: Liam Strong under renewed pressure

shareholders. The MMC is due to report on the deal by 9 June causing a delay in Sears' plans for a special dividend.

Mr Strong had asked Sears' increasingly frustrated investors to give him until the summer to show the group was turning the

Sears said it remained committed to the disposal of Freemans to Littlewoods, However, the MMC's decision means the contract for the sale signed last

The deal's referral surprised the City because Sears had said in January that the Office of Pair Trading had indicated that the Secretary of State did not intend to refer the acquisition.

As Sears shares fell 2p to 83.5p one analyst said: "It is further evidence of Sears' ability to attract bad luck. Sears is understood to have had legal advice which indicated that there would not be a problem."

Though analysts said they felt the MMC was unlikely to block the deal, the delayed sale could place further strains on Sears' cash flow.

If the deal is blocked it would force the company to seek an alternative buyer for Freemans, possibly at a lower price.

A combined Freemans-Littlewoods mail order business would have more than 25 per cent of the UK mail order market. However, the Government's statement refers specifically to the combined group's dominance of the agency part of the sector, where cash is collected every week by the company's army of agents.

Sears and Littlewoods are

likely to argue that the mail order sector also includes direct catalogue groups such as a Next Directory, Racing Green and N Brown.

Mark Josephson of Panmure Gordon said the two companies could also argue that the mail order market transcends national boundaries and should be regarded as a pan-European

Nick Bubb of Mees Pierson also expressed surprise at the decision. "It's not their [Sears'] fault but it must put a bit more pressure on the management."

Davies softens stance over rates increase

Diane Coyle

The deputy governor of the na vesteraav repeated its call for an increase in interest rates. But, in a speech just ahead of the publication of its quarterly Inflation Report today, Howard Davies struck a noticeably softer note than any recent comment from the Bank. Mr Davies echoed recent statements that a rise in interest rates would be desirable.

'We are not entirely persuad-

David Usborne

Sumitomo Bank.

The future of Lehman Broth-

ers. the American investment

bank with a significant presence

in London, is again under the

microscope amid a swirl of

rumours that it could be the sub-

ject of a buyout bid by Japan's

Lehman, which does not have

a large securities retail network

following its separation from Shearson in 1990, is one among

several US financial houses be-

ing viewed as likely players in a new wave of consolidation on

Wall Street in the wake of the

Morgan Stanley-Dean Witter

Sources inside the bank yes-

terday said they had no knowl-

edge of an approach by

Sumitomo. "I have been hearing a lot about Hong Kong Shanghai and the really hot one

for a while was Bankers Trust,"

one insider remarked. "If it were

Sumitomo, i would be really

surprised."
There is a consensus that

merger of last week.

New York

is, wilich is the remit been given," he said. However, he added: "I

should say the rise in rates we think necessary to meet the target is modest. We have been talking about a quarter per cent in the short term, with perhaps a little more later in the

The economy's recovery had been steadier and with lower in-

Sumitomo bid rumours

surround Lehman Bros

Lehman, which has seen its stock value double since it was

spun off by American Express

in 1992, is an attractive target

for firms, including banks, seek-

ing new partners. Banks have

had the path cleared toward the

purchase of investment firms by the recent easing of the 1933 Glass-Steagall Act which placed barriers between them and

Other possible targets regu-

larly cited include Bear Stearns.

the Prudential Securities divi-

sion of Prudential Insurance Co.

Paine Webber and regional US

firms like A G Edwards and

If Lehman is anxious to re-

main independent, however, it

could equally attempt to move

first in an acquisition of its own.

A search for a partner with a

strong securities retail capa-bility could lead it to Paine

Paine Webbber shares were

driven up last week by rumours

that it, and not Dean Witter,

would be the target of Morgan

Stanley's appetite.

Alex Brown of Baltimore.

brokerages.

ed that on current interest rates flation than was typical, he maining consistent with the diture meant the short-term we are on track to meet the said. The gap between the Bank Government's inflation target. prospects for social housing Government's inflation target of and the Chancellor on interest "What we need to watch were not bright. Housebuilding ing about differences of ter of a per cent." In a speech to a Housing Cor-

poration conference, Mr Davies warned that the Bank remained on the alert for any signs of a housing boom. A continuing "robust rise" would be a matter for concern, although he added that house prices remained low relative to earnings, and could rise a little while re-

Expectations of further

consolidations were fuelled by

sharp rises in the shares of many

Wall Street firms immediately

after the Morgan Stanley-Dean

senior adviser with Yamiachi

International, voiced doubts

yesterday that foreign banks,

including Sumitomo, could eas-

ily overcome regulatory con-

"I think this is going to be US banks looking at each other," he said. "Cross-border and

cross-industry acquisitions

could quickly run into ques-

tions with the regulators and I

think it would be very difficult."

Ironically, the history of

Lehman Brothers, and in par-

ticular its unhappy pairing with Shearson in the 1980s, offers

one cautionary tale about the limits of coupling traditional in-vestment banking services with

a strong retail capacity. Shear-

son was meant to provide

Lehman with a strong retail

dimension, but the two firms

never firmly melded.

Witter announcement. However, Scott Pardee, a

cerns in Washington.

tory we explored in the late 1980s which, in retrospect, we know to have been an experience which was bound to end in

tears and did," Mr Davies said. He also predicted that the private sector would not be able to meet all of the extra demand for housing in the next 20 years. Planned cuts in public expen-

2.5 per cent over the next two rates was small. "We are talk- carefully, though, is any sign that by housing associations was But referring to Department

of Environment predictions that the number of households would increase by 4.4 million during the next two decades, mainly in the form of one-person units, he argued that the housing market would need to

greater variety of types of tenure and sources of funding.

"What we need to watch

us into the kind of heady terri-

BP 'self-help' yields record £2.6bn profit

Chris Godsmark

British Petroleum yesterday

grab the enthusiasm of in-

sharply, ending 27p lower at 694p. Its annual dividend in-creased by 28 per cent to 19.5p.

BP's profits rise last year had

Business Correspondent

reflecting the longer-term re-covery in the oil giant's fortunes.

John Browne, chief executive, said BP had achieved efficiency savings and productivity gains worth \$600m (£375m) in just 12 months. The improvement meant the group had more than exceeded its internal targets in the push to reduce costs by \$1.5bn over three years. CURRENCIES

Mr Browne said two-thirds of

attributed a 30 per cent increase in its underlying annual profits to a record £2.6bn to the group's so-called "self-help" drive to cut costs, rather than the unexpected surge in oil prices. However the results failed to

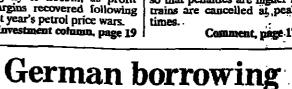
vestors, who had expected a stronger increase in the dividend payout in the last three months of 1996. The dividend rose by 0.25p to 5.25p compared with the previous quarter. BP shares were marked down

been achieved through these cost savings, with the remaining third from the boost to oil prices. Last autumn the price of

Brent crude briefly went through the \$25 barrier for the first time since the 1990 Gulf war. In the last quarter of 1996 BP's average oil selling price was \$23.1, up from \$17 during the same period in 1995. However, Sir David Simon.

BP chairman, was quick to dampen speculation of another '30 per cent year" in 1997. He said: "The board fully recognises you can't continue to grow at those sort of levels ... the board doesn't expect that to be repeated every year."
The oil price boost helped

profits from oil exploration to rise by 41 per cent to £814m in the last quarter of last year. Quarterly earnings from refining and marketing improved slightly to £163m, as profit margins recovered following last year's petrol price wars. Investment column, page 19





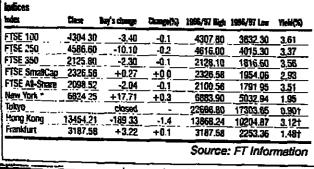
Yvette Cooper. Closing at DM 2.7458, sterling is at its highest level against the mark since late 1992 and just below the DM2.78 level at which the pound left the exchange rate mechanism.

Traders have taken several days to respond fully to the abysmal German unemploy-

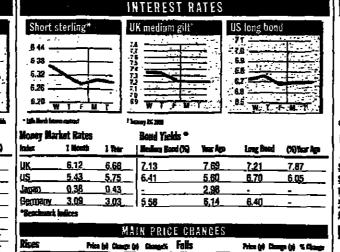
The pound rose by more than ment figures released last three plennigs against the mark Thursday. Although analysts yesterday, as the markets were quick to sound the alarm reacted to rumours that when unemployment statistics German borrowing will be proved higher than experied last week, the markets are still adjusting to the idea that the German economy is, even weaker than it had previously

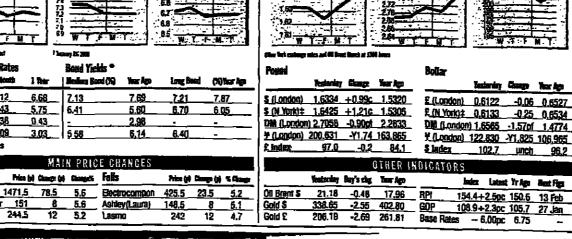
thought. Rumours yesterday that German officials were revising ap-wards their predictions for government borrowing to push the mark down in relation to the pound were denied by the Finance Ministry.

Comment, page 1



STOCK MARKETS





South Wa cancelle service

Stagecarch, the har all operator, is to be finding train crew shortages to forced its South Wall division to cancel on services into London koo station. A spokesman for the

chising Director, John Or said vesterday that he penalties would be he south West Trains made performance regime a when it was awarded to year franchise a years The cancellations are embarrassment for Sac which took over the fa-

promising an improved better trains and me tomer information The company, beat Brian Souter, has sente that it intends to energy try into trains. But Be days it has lost out; bidding for two historical franchises - the lies

South West Trains on cial director, Peter Cola be quizzed about the lations at a necting seusers' committee has evening. A spokestor the Lunden Regionals gers Committee sid t concerned about that pening and so are ong gers. We have had and complants and warp:

Mainline and Scotkail

STATE SHAMES The root cause of left lem is a redundan; gramme introducedisc which resulted in Isi West Trains Stidners **स्टबंधार**ाहरू ५.७८८माटः हे warmin invised that & the company sill left rects than a needs. men forced to candle **Security** of number of the had been sent on the and restring analysis South West framet the increase communication ін Етора оренція hetween London See ton. Wermenth and be well as suburhan entitie west and with of last transferie antiquipes

Market Ma

a day. Among the ma have been emeeledad line services to Resig peak-time commuters The speakerstonage a had only cancelled at age of 14 services at she conceded that w these were at peaking that it was causing its seases in business "We are not come

Blant the ancelling are weaking hard with & train drivers union as Starten have make franchise in Lemma b wifer with a white from La manheint 140 In at your and with British Rationals To receive in 1988 in The Other of Passes Franchism said that been in contact and West learns and hade plan that it expectable lens to be reclined at

furing the a business by have indicated page deliver the period frence Open can fe they fail to next arms levels The system of trains trains are sampled a 111724

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COMMENT

'If Unilever does manage to reorient itself away from tired

old, slow-growth Europe to the dynamic developing economies.

we will see the emergence of a quite different sort of company'

Miall FitzGerald, Unilever's recently ap-pointed chairman, likes to depict his company not as the giant oil tanker it is often described as - difficult to turn - but rather as a flotilla of nimble frigates all sailing in the same direction with a consistent set of battle orders. For the time being that anal-

ogy - intended to convey the impression of a hard-hitting, fast, flexible and entrepre-neurial machine - may owe more to wish-ful thinking than reality. As the world's second largest consumer products com-pany, Unilever is always going to find it hard to deliver anything other than pedestrian, OECD-average growth.

But that's not for lack of trying, and cer-

tainly Unilever seems at the moment to be making all the right noises. The florilla is being firmly set on a course away from the stodgy, low-growth economies of Europe and the US and towards the double-digit growth opportunities of emerging markets. Furthermore a quite substantial part of the flotilla, speciality chemicals, is to be separated and sold. In itself, there's nothing particularly new in this; Unilever has been weeding out and selling off poorly per-forming businesses for years. Disposals over the past 10 years amount to £3.5m of sales.

The point about Unilever's chemical es, however, is they are not poorly performing. In fact they are very much in demand among those at the cutting edge of consolidation in these industries. These are very significant businesses, accounting

FitzGerald's phone has barely stopped ranging since the "for sale" sign was hoisted yesterday morning. This is therefore quite a departure from the run-of-the-mill, Ongoing disposal programme

So what's the point of it? Unilever was faced with a choice. To leave these businesse alone would merely have been to watch their value erode. Unilever either had to commit very substantial extra investment to make them bigger, or it had to sell. Given that some of the businesses were finding they were disadvantaged by the Unilever link (Unilever competitors don't on the whole

like dealing with Unilever companies), Mr
FitzGerald has opted for the latter.

All very logical but the strategy is not without its risks. The difficulty is going to be in finding a replacement for these businesses which is as high-margin. Like many big companies these days, Mr FitzGerald believes the answers lie in the emerging markets of the answers lie in the emerging markets of the Far East, Latin America, India and China Today these markets account for less than 30 per cent of group sales. He aims to push that above 50 per cent over the next 10 years. That in itself would seem to rule out a big consumer products acquisition in

the developed world. But how else other than through acquisition can Unilever usefully apply all that money? Investing in organic growth, even in emerging markets, is a path fraught with different properties. Its bid was indeed impression of the properties of the pro

manage to reorient itself away from tired old. slow-growth Europe to the dynamic developing economies, we will see the emergence of a quite different sort of company - one which really does justify the description of a flotilla of fast moving frigates.

FitzGerald's flotilla plots a hazardous course

Trouble in store for rail franchises

Perhaps it was just bad timetabling that on the very day the Government completed the sale of the last remaining passenger train franchise, the first one it disposed of was running into a spot of bother with its regulator. It is hard, however, to avoid the suspicion that the indecent haste with which the 25 franchises have been sold off is storing up trouble. Last week we had the spectacle of no less than four franchises being knocked out in one day. Anyone would think there was an election on the way.

To describe the franchising process as a "sale" is actually misleading. In the majority of cases the only cash that has changed hands has flowed in the direction of the successful bidders, who won the franchises on the basis of how little subsidy they would accept. This appears to have been Stagecoach's undoing when it ran the slide rule over South West Trains. Its bid was indeed impressive - under-

for some 10 per cent of total group sales, ficulties and pitfalls. But let's give Mr FitzGer—Once in the driver's seat it found that in rency union demands. All in all then, the worth perhaps upwards of £5bn. Mr ald the benefit of the doubt, if Unilever does order to make a decent private sector return. on a declining level of public subsidy it would , its economy into the Maastricht corset on have to employ fewer drivers on more flex-ible terms. This it has succeeded in doing but prospect that our pockets will jingle with only at a cost of cancelling services and thereby incurring financial penalties.

in situations like these the first instinct of the Stagecoach chairman, Brian Souter, might be to look for a head and then watch it roll. Unfortunately the obvious candidate has already gone. Peter Field, who used to run South West Trains, was thrown off the footplate last year and replaced by Brian Cox, a long-time Souter lieutenant who makes even his boss look like a pussycat. This looks like making an interesting test of Mr Souter's management machismo.

Watch Kohl fight for EMU

If Germany can't meet the Maastricht Leriteria in time, all bets are off. The chances of Helmut Kohl persuading the German pub-lic to plump for the curv on the back of a figure-fudge are slim. And European monetary

union without Germany is mounceivable.

But the possibility of EMU going ahead at all recedes if the timetable crumbles. Without the credible excuse of a looming deadline, plenty of European politicians will find it hard to persuade their voters to swallow the horrid medicine that a successful cur-

Once in the driver's seat it found that in a rency union demands. All in all then, the euros in the early years of the next century.

The abysmal German unemployment figures announced last week were only the start of it. This week the markets picked up on rumours in the British media that German officials were revising their deficit forecasts upwards - to 3.5 per cent of GDP rather than the current projection of 29 per cent - to cope with extra spending on unemployment

But hang on a minute. Is this really credible? The German and French governments are as aware as anyone that if the timetable is missed the entire project starts to flake. The German government will do absolutely everything it can to meet the timetable. Watch this space for a supplementary budget later in the year if the public finances deteriorate too far.

Not that a budget nip and tuck here and there will be easy. Fiscal tightening while unemployment is so high could be extremely bad for the economy, and deeply unpopu-lar with the German public, not to mention the opposition-dominated Bundesrat, which would have a veto on new legislation. Even so, it is too soon to close the curtains on EMU. Never underestimate what Chancelfor Kohl and his colleagues are prepared to do to see the European project through.

Government zeros in on £1bn bill for millennium

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

The next government will have to spend at least £1bn, equivalent to half-a-penny on income tax, updating civil service computer systems to cope with the millennium date change problem, a minister warned yester-

day.

The surprise estimate emerged as the taskforce group set up by the DTI to raise awareness of the date change crisis admitted that most leading companies had so far failed to get to grips with the problem, despite an alarming rise in the cost of recruiting highly-trained

Most computer systems, along with many of the microchips built into industrial and household appliances, cannot cope with the dates after 2000 because they were only built to recognise the last two digits of each year. Retailers' systems are already rejecting products with sell-by dates after the millennium because they think they are almost 100 years old.

Ian Taylor, Science and Technology Minister, pledged that the civil service would have solved its millennium problem

by the end of next year, the last date which industry experts be-lieve will give organisations enough time to test new systems. However he predicted

central government and the various agencies which pay benefits and levy taxes would need to spend at least £1bn. He also said he doubted the DTT's current estimate of £3m to solve its internal date change difficulties. In the private sector senior consultants are able to command pay of up to £2,000 a day

to manage complex millennium computing projects. Jim Tucker, who advises the privatised utilities on the issue, said several firms in the industry had alwork. He explained: "The people shortage is getting critical. Companies most at risk are those who haven't realised it is at such a critical stage. They will find even middle-ranking consultants charging £1,000 a day."

Stories of consultants stolen in a salary-bidding frenzy have become frequent. The Post Office yesterday confirmed that Dr Nick Fitzhugh, its director in charge of the millennium project, had recently left to join the consultance arm of accountants Ernst & Young, Dr Fitzhugh

was unavailable for comment yesterday, though the Post Office said he had been replaced. Robin Guenier, head of Task-

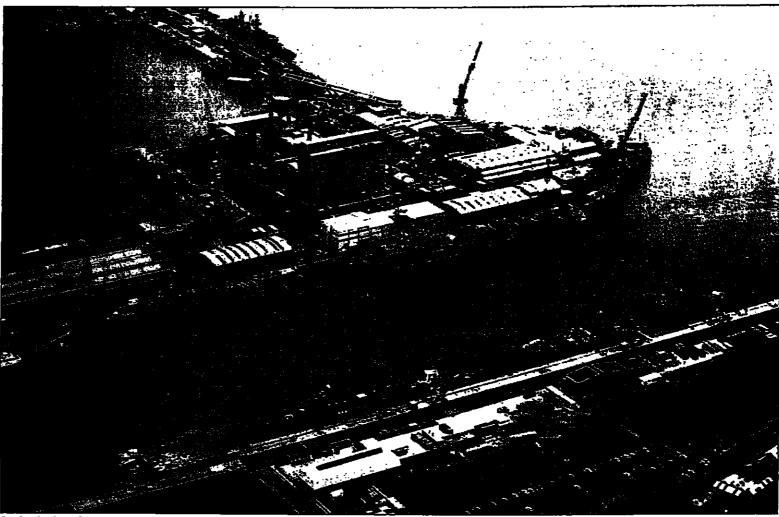
force 2000, savaged the plans of leading companies at a news conference yesterday, describing their efforts so far as "totally inadequate". One serious concern is that even if companies sort out their own date change problems, they may end up suing suppliers who are not so well prepared. Hundreds of internal computer programmes may need to be altered in big organisations

Mr Guenier went on: "It's already too late to expect a total solution. It is no longer possidon't do this right is the prospect of serious economic, ocial and political difficulties in 2000 and beyond."

However, research commissioned by Taskforce 2000 last November showed just 28 per cent of senior managers were fully aware of the problem, only a small rise from the 15 per cent figure in a previous survey

Worse still, just 9 per cent of organisations had completed an audit to assess how much work needed doing.

Anglo-American consortium buys Devonport Royal Naval Dockyard for £40m



An Anglo-American consortium of engineering and services companies has agreed to buy the Devonport Royal Naval Dockyard in Plymouth (above) from the Government for £40.3m in cash. The consortium includes BICC, Wier Group

and Halliburton of the US. The trio already owns the Devonport Management Partnership which will continue to provide nucle refuelling and refitting for Trident and other nuclear submarines into the next century, the Ministry of Defence said.

Some 4,500 people work at the dockyard and consultations with trade unions have been completed. The MoD sold the other main nava support base, Rosyth, to Babcock last year. The engineering union, the AEEU, welcomed Photograph: Apex

IN BRIEF

• Three Arthur Andersen partners were yesterday called in as administrators to Virtuality Group, the first company to bring virtual reality technology to the stock market. Virtuality's shares were suspended at 68.5p last week pending clarification of its financial position. The administrators said they intended to restructure the company and focus on its core business of headsets, which recently won a \$10m (£6m) contract with Philips. David Duggins, one of the administrators, said: "The headsets, which are compatible with personal computers and leading games consoles, have a potentially enormous market, thus generating substantial royalty streams in the future."

 Hopes of a counter-bid emerging for Clyde Petroleum evaporated as predator Gulf Canada raised its stake in the oil exploration and production firm to about 27 per cent. Gulf's buying activity comes after recent steep falls in crude oil prices, which may have driven investors into the arms of the bidder. Market Report, page 18

 Scottish Amicable said yesterday in a letter to policyholders that it had had expressions of interest from more suitors than Abbey National and the Prudential, the two which have gone public on their offers. The mutual insurer said it would seek formal offers from all interested suitors and would take independent financial advice during the selection process. The objective was to maximise financial benefits for with-profits policyholders, "taking into account both short term and long-term returns."

 Allied Irish Banks denied market speculation that it was interested in acquiring the US banking group Riggs National. AIB's results for the year to December exceeded analysts' expectations and the bank said a strong performance in all divisions drove pre-tax profits up by 13 per cent to IR£421m (£412m). But profit-taking and concern about the impact of the planned acquisition of Dauphin Deposit of Pennsylvania for \$1.36bn pulled the shares 20 lower.

• The cable industry will be making profits "as the City understands them" by the year 2000, Stephen Davidson, chairman of the Cable Communications Association, told MPs on the Trade and Industry Select Committee investigating regulation. Mr Davidson, who is also acting chief executive of Telewest Communications, said the industry had invested £6bn so far and would invest the same again to the year 2000. He said the industry hoped to have a positive cash flow this year.

· Allied Domecq, the distiller and food retailer, said performance in the first half of the fiscal year would be hurt by the strength of the pound, though profit growth would improve in the second half. The strong pound could cut £20m from fullyear earnings.

 LG Securities International today becomes the first Korean member of the London Stock Exchange, when it joins to make a market in Korean stocks on SEAQ International,

• Celtic more than doubled profits in the half year to December. The Scottish Premier League club made £2.1m pre-tax after amortising the value of transfer fees, versus £929,000 in the corresponding period, on sales 46 per cent higher at £12.5m.

Strong sterling casts shadow over Reuters

Reuters, the electronic financial information group, saw profit forecasts sharply downgraded after warning that the pound's strength could severely restrict growth prospects. The shares, which hit a high above 800p in October, slid below 600p at one tage yesterday, before settling l 6p down at 626p. The group calculated that ex-

change rates ruling at the end of last year would have sliced 230m off sales and around £100m from operating profits had they prevailed throughout 1996. Sterling strengthened by 19 per cent against the German mark and by 9.3 per cent against the dollar last year.

Peter Job, chief executive, aid: "If sterling's strength continues, it will severely restrict prospects for reported revenue and earnings growth in 1997." He also warned that moves to offer attractive prices to encour- a final of 9p, and Mr Job said age existing customers to switch the strength of the group's un-

to Reuters' new 3000 range of information terminals would be a drag on revenue growth this year. This will make it difficult for the group to better the underlying revenue growth rate achieved in 1996," he said.

Lorna Tilbian, media analysi

at Panmure Gordon, said the impact of the strong pound had prompted her to cut her current-year profit forecast from £779m to between £710m and £720m and the 1998 prediction from £915m to £780m. But she stressed that the currency problems could easily reverse. Stripping that out, the group was essentially saying it would match last year's underlying sales growth of 8 per cent.

The downgrades came despite the announcement of a 17 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £701m for the 12 months to December, in line with expectations. The total dividend is being raised a fifth to 11.75p, after

derlying business meant Reuters should be able to maintain double-digit dividend growth this year.

However, the group was silent on any further plans to pay back to shareholders some of its surplus cash, which rose another £200m to £1.05bn in the year. Last October, proposals to hand back £613m through the creation of an innovative special dividend share were scuppered by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, on the eve of their being given approval by shareholders, he ended certain special tax benefits for institutions.

The group said it would lobby for changes to bring the UK more into line with the greater flexibility on capital changes allowed in the US. But Robert Rowley, finance director, said: 'We don't think our share holders would want us to be in the vanguard of the pack at the moment. We are watching to see what others do." Investment Column, page 19

wins 95% backing Nic Cicutti Personal Finance Editor

Members of the Woolwich yes-terday overwhelmingly backed the building society's plans to convert to a bank at a special general meeting.
At least 1.000 Woolwich

savers and borrowers attended the meeting, called to decide on the society's plans, which will lead to some 2.6 million memhers receiving free shares worth at least £850 each. The number of votes in favour of conversion and converting to a public lim-

Newcastle Building Society yesterday became the latest to close several of its accounts in a bid to stop speculators hoping to benefit from a free shares handout in the event of a takeover or flotation, writes Nic Cicutti. The society announced that its Small Savers and Black Callant

accounts, which both conferred membership rights, would close immediately, along with its Nova Plus savings scheme. Instead, the Newcastle will offer deposit accounts, which it said would still offer competitive rates of interest but not entitle mem-

bers to a share of the society. Bill Midgley, the society's chief executive, said: "We are being indundated by speculators whose intentions are purely to reap the rewards of a hypothetical conversion or merger.

amounted to 95 per cent. ited company." He claimed Although the ballot had already that changes in the financial serthat changes in the financial services industry meant that the Woolwich needed the flexibility of access to equity capital markets in order to expand. Selling the society would have imperilled its culture, values and strategic objectives.

> Thomas Lines, an investing member presently living in Brussels, said that research showed mutuals, whether building societies or insurers, offered better deals for their members than proprietory companies. "Why can a mutual keep its

> borrowing rates low and its saving rates high?" Mr Lines

> "It is because it does not have to pay dividends to shareholders . It is in savers and borrowers' long-term interests that we remain a mutual."

> He was backed by several speakers who also spoke out against the Woolwich's £50m

Amstrad takes £6.4m knock

Magnus Grimond

Amstrad, the computers to mobile telephones group headed by Alan Sugar, yesterday un-veiled a further £6.4m exceptional charge for its withdrawal from its disastrous foray uno consomer electronics. But analysis were cannously suggesting the worst may now be over for the group, which has had an unrappy relationship with the City for years, and the shares gained 10p to 174p.

video, television and fax operations. At the time, that was said to be the last of the costs associated with the business, but Mr Sugar said it had been difficult to judge what would be realised from the old stock. "We had a job to dispose of £70m of inventory and the £6m is the difference in the margin we thought we were going to earn on that and we didn't earn it." The latest charges meant The latest cost comes on top Amstrad remained in the red for

the end of last year for dealing though losses were cut from with the then loss-making audio, £5.4m to £1.78m. At the operating level, the group turned a deficit of £8.79m into a profit of £1.91m. A maintained interim dividend of 1.25p is uncovered by a loss per share of 2.4p. However, the group's net cash climbed from £91.2m to £112m over the course of the year, representing 69 per cent of shareholders' funds.

Mr Sugar said he was still considering ways of handing back cash to shareholders. But he warned that any plan would have of £10.7m of charges taken at the six months to December, alto be thought out carefully.

Affordable Healthcare

Conversion of Woolwich

seen decided by the vast num-

her of proxy votes cast in favour of the Woolwich plan, many in

the audience applauded

speeches against the society's

John Stewart, group chief

executive at Woolwich, said:

The three options we consid-

ered were remaining a building

society and possibly merging

wich to an existing company:

£3bn flotation.

Lifetime from HealthCare



market report/shares

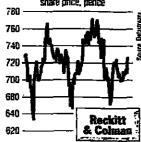
FTSE 100 4304.3 - 3.4 **FISE 250**

4586.0 - 10.1 **FTSE 350** 2125.8 - 2.3

SEAQ VOLUME 992.9m shares, 49,723 bargains

Gilts Index 96.34 + 0.02

Share spotlight



85 million Clyde shares change hands as Gulf war rages

The fierce battle for control of to shake off their indifference Clyde Petroleum moved into and by the close an 18.8-point the stock market as bidders Gulf Canada scooped up around 85 million shares. The buying spree, conducted by Cazenove, lifted the Canadian

stake to approaching 28 per cent of Clyde's capital. The struggle has become increasingly acrimonious; last week the Canadians were forced to lift their offer by 15p share to 120p, putting a £495m price tag on the company. The battle is due to

ciose next week. PDFM, with 14 per cent, and CIN Management, holding 3.2 per cent, were among institutions bailing out at prices around 120p.

The rest of the market, in effect, reversed Monday's display. For much of the session blue chips were in gentle de-"ne awaiting New York's lead. W. 'n Wall Street produced a solid opening equities started fall had been reduced to 3.4 at

Turnover nudged 1 billion shares with the Clyde swoop and busy trading in Asda and Reuters making significant contributions. Little Emerald Energy flared a further 1.25p to 6.5p ahead of its presenta-tion on its Colombian oil prospects with Seaq putting volume at nearly 45 million.

Superstores had an eventful session with stories of analyst BZW and ABN Amro Hoare Govett were said to be preparing to do the damage. Hoare denied any involvement; nobody was available at BZW to comment

The market could not make up its mind whether an investment house was about to go negative on the sector or direct its attention at one par-



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

Tesco was the favourite for individual treatment, falling 11p to 331.5p. Asda was trad-ed 3.75p lower to 112p; Safeway 11p to 346.5p and J Sainsbury 6p to 314.5p.

Oils were weak with British Petroleum's figures offering no encouragement. BP lost 27p to 694p, dragging Shell, results tomorrow, 15.5p down to 1.053.5p. Enterprise Oil tumbled 24p to 648.5p and Lasmo 12p to 242p. Other recent high-flyers, such as British meo Petroleum Syndicate and Cairn Energy felt the strain - Borneo lost 41p to 1.315p and Cairn 14p to

Reuters, the information

group, was another unsettled by figures. The shares closed 16p down at 626p. Before the results they were up 18.5p and then dipped briefly below 600p when the profits were an-

nounced. Unilever, the Anglo Dutch giant, was the star of the day, outpacing other blue chips with a 78.5p gain to 1.471.5p following its results and the planned sale of its speciality chemical side.

The food and soap giant's exuberance filtered through to Reckitt & Colman, up 18p to 727.5p. as some observers wondered whether the household products group could fall into Unilever's take over sights.

Associated British Foods, 15p in the money to 496p, and Cadbury Schweppes, 5p to 482p, were among shares to draw strength from the Unilever experience.

BAT Industries, reflecting hopes of some easing of US litigation pressures, put on 21p to 535.5p and Allied Domecq marched 13.5p higher to 428.5p after a mildly encouraging trading statement.

Utilities were under pressure as windfall tax worries suddenly gnawed at confidence. Thames Vater was lowered 17.5p to 665p and ScottishPower 10p to 361.5p. Railtrack's express performance prompted the in-evitable "take profits" advice. Teather & Greenwood sent out

the sell signal, leaving the shares just 3p off at 388.5p. Electrocomponents dipped 23.5p to 425.5p on Merrill Lynch caution and Eurotherm produced a gloomy trading statement, falling 10p to

473.5p. PolyMase Pharmacentical, the drugs group, gave up 6.5p to 125p; the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine sold more shares. The latest disposal is 600,000 shares, cutting its stake to 18.47 per cent. The school needs the cash because of government cuts. It says it has "no intention at pre-

sent" of selling more shares. Health shares generally had another string of gains with British Biotech up 10p at 250p. highest since July, and Bio compatibles International making further headway with a 60p jump to 1,350p. Shield Diagnostic gained 18.5p to

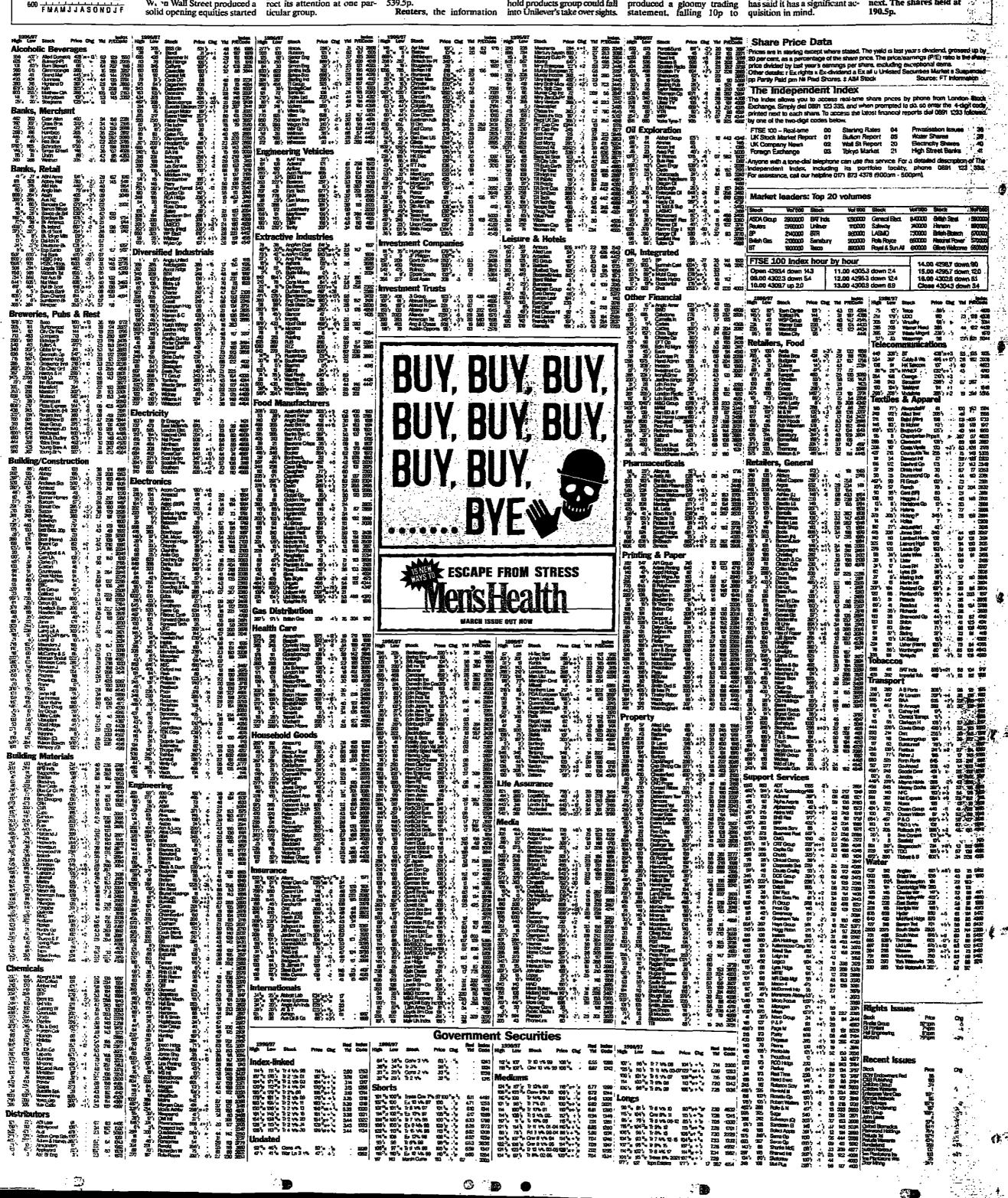
Newcomer Zicor, a Canadian miner, made an impressive debut. Placed at 18p, to raise £850,000, the price moved to 25.5p before settling at 24.5p. Wedderburn, a property group, held at 18.75p. It has said it has a significant ac☐ Shares of Po Na Na, run. ning Spanish-style late-night bars, are having an exciting. run on Ofex. Priced at 9pilast-

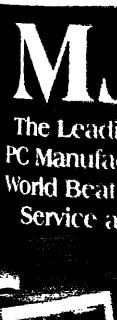
Taking Stock

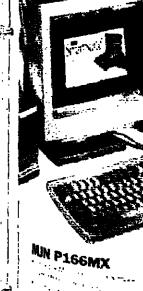
year they closed 2p higher at a 51p peak. Stockbroker Teather & Greenwood believes profits this year will emerge at £400,000 with £950,000 in prospect next. The company, related to fally quoted Grosvenor Inns, has eight outlets with two more

☐ Action Computer Supplies, one of the few companies recently to come to over, is described as "one of the most attractive long-term investments" in the informstion technology sector by analyst Richard Dyett of

Henderson Crosthwaite. He forecasts profits this year of £4.8m with £6m likely next. The shares held at 🛷







Switch on, stump up for the great celestial football spectacular

Picture the scene: Tony Fraher of Singer & Friedlander, who is running the Alan Hansenfronted football investment trust, is being interviewed by Japanese television for a docuentary about the dawn of digital television.

Shares of Po Na Na reading Spanish-style late-size sare having an excite a on Olex. Priced at 9p by the they closed 2p higher at they closed 2p higher at they closed they have been passed. Stockbroker

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of Ischnology sector by a view of Richard Dyell of

whing next month.

The interviewer asks the ebullient Mr Fraher for his views on pay-per-view football. Mr Fraher replies that armchair fans should regard the planned electronic season ticket for such services as a "celestial mmsnle".

Only investors can decide whether Mr Fraher's got his head in the clouds or if he's on a stairway to heaven

The Man from the Prn is back - after being declared officially dead two years ago. The Prudential has woken up to the fact that, although it has not used the slogan about door-todoor salesmen in its advertising since 1978, an overwhelming majority of the public still think of the phrase first when the company is mentioned.

A new ad campaign kicks off this Friday with Sir Peter Davis, the company's portly chief executive, posing on television as "the man". The company attempted to

kill off the idea of residential collectors two years ago, when it declared that it was ending door-to-door collections for new business. Despite this, over 2,000 Pru collectors still quietly ply their trade on Britain's doorsteps.

"We want to get rid of the bike clips and trilby image, but keep the idea of the man from the Pru being friendly and helpful," a company spokesman says. "Now all 22,000 employees of the company will have to see themselves as the Man from the Pru. This will regain the confi-dence of the public in both the company and the industry." Brave words indeed, particularly for the female staff at the Pro.

The phrase was first coined in 1949 when the *Illustrated* Magazine ran a feature about a Mr Sawyer, a collector for the PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Mind on higher things: Tony Fraher, armchair footie fan

Hextable, Kent. The prospect of Sir Peter Davis pounding on my front door is certainly an intriguing one.

P&P, the computer services

group named after co-founders Pete and Pam Fisher, is changing its moniker to Skillsgroup. Has the company fallen out with the couple who launched the business, then? Pete Fisher still sits on the board and has a substantial stake in the business. "Not at all," says a Skills-group spokesperson. "We have three main brands, and the P&P brand now contributes only a third to company profits. We felt it was time to reflect this in the name of the

It still seems a bit odd. Companies usually change their name in an attempt to jettison associations with a less than

around 20p five years ago to 180p today. Mr and Mrs Fisher launched the company in 1979 as a distributor of computers. They di-vorced in the late 1980s, and Pam Fisher went off to the US 10 run a graphics company. Pete, a former social worker, is

still a non-executive director.

So Alan Shearer, the Newcastle striker who captains England against Italy at Wembley tonight, has signed up to pro-mote laguar. The lucky sharp-shooter gets a Jag XJ 4.0-litre saloon for his troubles. Commenting on the three-year agreement, the Tyneside maestro comments: "Jaguar represents for me the best of British." Strange, since it's owned by Fond of Detroit.

"Twe also seen at first hand Jamar's modern production lines and met their enthusiastic workforce," Mr Shearer adds. Until recently Jaguar's Coventry production lines were a byword for antiquity.
Only since the immentioned Americans intervened have things got better.

Yesterday's news that there are now over 80,000 millionaires in the UK did nothing for Keith Sharp's blood pressure. The journalist and author's fourth book. The Dreamer's Guide to Becoming a Millionaire, published 18 months ago, has done less well than his previous books, and sales are now plummeting.
"It's just incredible," fumes

Mr Sharp. "I timed this book to coincide with the launch of the Lottery, but the number of copies sold has actually gone down over the last 10 months. I'd given up on the thing then this report about a record number of millionaires comes out." If any of you want to ease

Mr Sharp's blood pressure, you can still buy the tome, published under the pseudonym James Matthison, for a mere £5.95.

John Willcock

Reuters success story slowing

provider of electronic dealing services and information to the financial markets. But growth has stalled over the past year. Since October, the share price has slumped from a high of 806p to 626p, down another 16p yesterday as

foreign exchange worries prompted a wave of profits downgrades. Certainly yesterday's year-end figures to December contained plenty to suggest that the double-digit growth rates in the business may be harder to come by in future. Pre-tax profits grew 17 per cent to £701m, but the increase was only kept in double digits by a 1.6 percentage point rise in margins to 22 per cent, boosted by foreign currency hedging.

In fact last year's 8 per cent revenue growth slowed to 6 per cent at constant cuchange rates in the fourth quarter and barely moved ahead once the impact of the pound is taken into account. Renters warned the strength of sterling would "severely restrict" prospects for

But while foreign exchange problems are fikely to iron themselves out in the long run, there are clear signs that the underlying business is more mature than it once was. Reuters has grown fat on supplying the foreign exchange markets, which its information prod-ucts and Dealing 2000-1 and Dealing 2000-2 trading systems dominate. Last year, growth in the two dealing systems slowed markedly, dropping from 23 per cent in 1995 to 9 per cent. Last year's quiet currency markets may now be coming alive again as worries about European monetary union grow, but, despite the group's optimism, its eventual arrival will hit Reuters' business.

The group is not sitting still. Instinct is at last making decent inroads into the equity trading market. This business in effect an electronic agency broker that marries buyer and sellers of equities on an anonymous basis, was picked up in the US 10 years ago and has grown on the back of the burgeoning Nasdaq market there. Underlying growth accelerated from 34 to 40 per cent last year and revenues of £346m are now just £113m short of the foreign exchange products.

The great white hope is the 3000

range of information products, which combines up-to-the minute price information with extensive historical data on everything from shares and bonds to foreign exchange. Although order levels, at 14,700, are running ahead of plans, Reuters has some work to put in to convert its existing customer base of 200,000 terminals to the new system by the year 2000. So after five years of holding the line on prices, the group is warning that it is now offering incentives to switch, a move which will restrain revenues this year. The group is also still left with the

problem of its £1.05bn cash pile, which it was blocked from distributing to shareholders last year. Profits of just £710m this year, rising to £780m, would put the shares on a forward p/e of 21, falling to 18. Hold.

'30 % BP' ends up red-faced

Sir David Simon, chairman of British Petroleum, is never short of a catchy phrase to describe the oil giant's results and yesterday was no exception. In ebullient mood he described 1990 as the "30 per cent year", since both profits and dividends were up by around that amount. Last year replacement cost profit, which excludes exceptionals surged to £2.62bn, with the fourth quar-

ter dividend raised 15.25p to 19.5p. Yet the reaction of the markets left BP's top brass looking more than a lit-tle red-faced. The shares ended 27p lower at 694p as dealers turned sour on the oil sector, thinking that the recent slide in oil prices back to more realistic levels had yet to hit sentiment. The talk from analysts was about "un-

realistic optimism" being punctured, hardly what BP wanted to hear. On the face of it, the figures seems

to bear out this analysis. It was true that BP's fourth-quarter profits of £689m were slightly below expectations, but this was because John Browne, chief executive, had included in the figures discretionary spending in the exploration and production businesses, including \$40m on a new computer system. The 1p rise in the fourth-quar-ter dividend to 5.25p was also mildly disappointing with some analysts look-

ing for 5.5p.
Yet, beneath it all, BP's core business seems as solid as ever, either outperforming other oil groups in terms of its return on capital, or at the very top of the industry's best performance. BP makes returns of 17 per cent on in-vestment, whereas Shell, which reports tomorrow, is having trouble getting above 12 per cent.

Even the fall in oil prices is deceptive. All oil companies had a bumper year in 1996 as the price of oil unexpectedly rose to \$25 a harrel. Though the price has dropped since the autumn to \$21, BP's internal target is just \$14. whereas long-term forecasts - always an unreliable guide in the oil business

Renters has been an amazing success story. From its journalistic origins in the 19th century, the group has developed into probably the world's leading to probably the world's representations of another and probably the world's representations of another another than the price howering at around \$20 a barrel. Sir David was yesterday anxious to dampen expectations of another 30 per cent year in 1997. Yet all the indications are that RP's predictions indications are that BP's predictions will turn out to be far too pessimistic. Analysts are forecasting net income of £2.94bn and earnings per share rising from 46.7p to 51.95p. On that basis, vesterday's share price fall could spell a good huying opportunity.

Metamorphosis at P&P

When companies change their name it is usually because they wish to put behind them a past they would rather forget. If that is the case P&P, the computer services metamorphosing into Skillsgroup, ought to have dropped its name five years ago.

That was when the Lancashirebased group slumped into losses after becoming horribly exposed to the cut-throat market of shifting boxes of high-volume, low-margin personal computers. Since then P&P has reinvented itself by branching into training, consultancy and technical support. The transformation, carried out by the same management team led by managing director David Southworth that took P&P to the brink, has worked wonders for the bottom line and the share price, up from a low of 30p to touch a high of 79p last month.

In the year to November pre-tax profits rose by 14 per cent to £14.3m on sales £2.3m higher at £344m. Fully diluted earnings per share advanced 15 per cent to 12.7p while the dividend was lifted by 16 per cent to 3.65p.

The results were helped by first contributions from two acquisitions which chipped in profits of £2.2m on sales of £23.5m. Myriad, bought for £12.5m in April, supplies contract and permanent information technology (IT) personnel to big corporations, while QA offers consultancy, training and IT contracting and recruitment services.

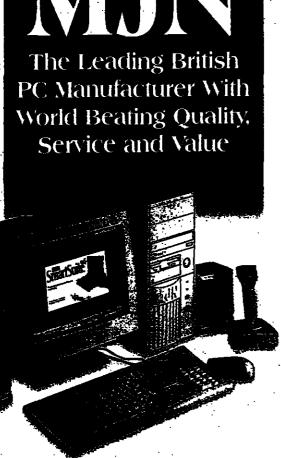
Excluding £13.2m of loan notes issued to pay for these acquisitions, gearing is low at 16 per cent, allowing scope for further deals. However, Mr Southworth has clearly learnt from bitter experience, vowing to acquire people rather than product businesses.

The P&P name will live on as a sunplier of desktop products and services, which still account for over a third of profits. But the group should benefit from the rush to upgrade computers ahead of the millennium.

House broker Panmure Gordon is looking for pre-tax profits of £17.5m this year, implying a p/e ratio of 12 with the shares up 4.5p at 181p. The rating looks undemanding compared with fancy multiples of other computer services groups like Misys. Good value.

Het cash (200) Share price pers 800 609 1992 1998 1994 1995 1996 1997

Reuters Holdings : At a glance



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MMX" processor" 512K pipeline busi cache

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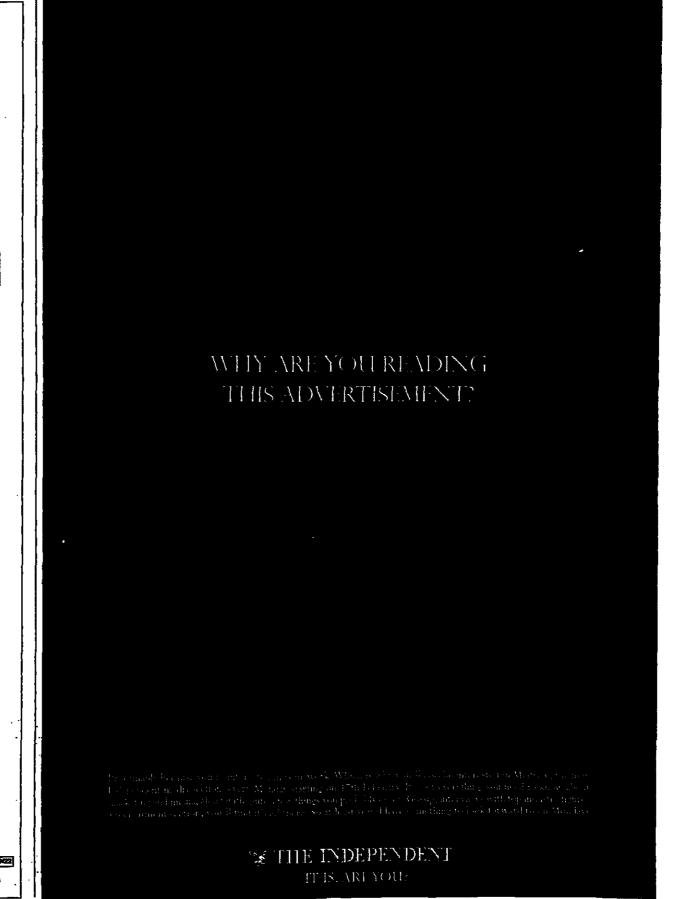
Intel 200MHz Pentium processor

64Mb EDO RAM 3.26b hard disk 33.6 V34+ modem 12 speed CD-ROM time 17" SVSA 0.28dp screen

(20° optional) ATT Rage 1 3D graphics with 4Mb SoundBlaster 32 hertwart Wavetable sound card & 70W

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Hall falls from grace at Bath

Out of the Pilkington Cup, struggling in the league - the club that was once the most feared in union has now sacked an icon. Chris Hewett reports

departure from the crumbling forcess of Bath Rugby Club had been the subject of feverish clubhouse speculation since before Christmas. But when push finally came to shove yesterday, the atmosphere at the Recreation Ground was one of genuine shock and grave sorrow.

Shock that Bath, so strong in their bonds of brotherhood and so rooted in the supremacy that brought them 16 league and cup trophies in the 14 years be-tween 1984 and 1996, should have fallen so publicly from grace, that their transition from the uncomplicated world of amateurism to the unforgiving challenge of professionalism should have been so badly

And sorrow? Yes, plenty of that. Hall, a world-class wing forward whose career was cruelly undermined by persistent knee trouble, commanded huge respect from even the most critical of Bath supporters. In his own way, he was every bit as much an icon as Jeremy Guscott or Stuart Barnes or Gareth Chilcott.

More impressively still, that respect was shared by his peers. Tony Swift, the former England wing who now sits on the management board at the Rec, once described his old club-mate as "the best player I ever had the good fortune to play along-side." He was far from alone in

Sadly for those who retain romantic notions of what rugby used to be, it is precisely that closeness that is at the root of Bath's predicament: out of the Pilkington Cup, struggling in the Courage League and shorn of the swaggering self-confidence

loodstains on the carpet, character that made them the lear stains on the cheek.

John Hall's imminent rugby history. Suddenly, it is a rough world out there, and old pals acts cut no ice now that

money is at stake.

Hall initially landed the team manager's title in the early summer of 1995, before professional rugby was fully on the English agenda. It was not a hard-headed business decision, but an emotional one: forced by injury to forgo his farewell appearance in the Pilkington Cup final against Wasps, he was swept into the job on a wave of player power - always

Suddenly, it is a rough world out there, and old pals' acts cut no ice now money is at stake

an important element in the Bath fabric - within days of the Twickenham showpiece. His appointment effectively

marginalised two of his most familiar playing colleagues and fellow England internationals, Chilcott and Richard Hill, who had both taken on high-profile back-room roles at the Rec. Chilcott distanced himself from the club almost immediately and, within a few weeks of the start of the 1995/96 campaign, Hill joined Gloucester as coach-

ing director. Still, all seemed well when Bath tied up yet another league and cup double last May. Hall worked like a Trojan throughout the summer to fend off big-spending rivals and hold his

squad together until the club ne-gotiated their own sugar-daddy deal with a local multi-millionaire greetings card tycoon, Andrew Brownsword. Ben Clarke, enticed by a lucrative bid from Richmond, was the only firstteam regular to leave and that seemed to pale into insignificance when Henry Paul and Jason Robinson, two brilliant rugby league talents, crossed the great divide to play alongside the likes of Guscott and De

Neither signing proved espe-cially successful, however, and discontent at Paul's reputed £5,000-a-game deal gathered pace. When Bath were dumped out of the Heineken Cup by Cardiff at the quarter-final stage, rumours of a rift between Hali and Brian Ashton, the chief coach, began to circulate. By Christmas, Ashton had taken extended leave from his post. By early January, he was gone.

Glanville.

That prompted a reshuffle at the top. Brownsword, hardly a rugby man by instinct but keen to protect his initial £2.5m investment, decided to involve himself in the day-to-day running of the club and Swift took over as chief executive with a powerful and wide-ranging brief. Hall, his position weakened by damaging newspaper publicity following alleged incidents in a city wine bar after a victory over Harlequins in De-

cember, looked vulnerable. urday, when Leicester inflicted the most comprehensive defeat on Bath in a decade. Hall, clearly shaken afterwards but still prepared to answer the hard questions, fell back on selfdeprecating humour. "It's not the end of the world," he said. "It just feels like it is."

The irony is almost too bitter to contemplate.



Recreation breakdown: The departure of John Hall as Bath's director of rugby

Rowell loses Greening to overwork

CHRIS HEWETT

Jack Rowell, the England coach, has spent most of the season voicing concern over the relentless programme of top-level matches confronting interna-tional players and those fears came home to roost yesterday when Phil Greening, his reserve hooker, withdrew from the party to face Ireland in this weekend's round of Five Nations matches. The Gloucester live-wire aggravated already dam-aged knee ligaments during his club's Courage league victory over Orrell at the weekend.

Richard Cockerill, of Leicester, was immediately promoted from the England A front row and will take Greening's place on the bench at Lansdowne Road. With Graham Rowntres a fixture on the loose bead and Darren Garforth, a specialist tight head, on the bench, the elevation of the most talkative Tiger of them all means a national triumph for Welford Road's ever-popular ABC club.

Greening's misfortune was not of concern to Rowell alone. Fran Cotton and the rest of the Lions selection panel have been monitoring his progress for some weeks with a view to taking him to South Africa this summer and with Keith Wood, their obvious first choice from Ireland. on the long-term injury list with shoulder trouble, they could have done without the news.

The Springboks themselves reacted to a serious domestic problem yesterday when Rian Oberholzer, chief executive of the South African Rugby Foothall Union, announced moves to prevent a further migration of talent to big-spending clubs in Europe. "International Rugby Board regulation number nine says that any player wanting to play outside his country has first to be released by his union." Oberholzer said. "We will not be doing that from now on."

If Oberholzer's threat is gen-uine, the South Africans will efectively bar any more leading lights cashing in on the profes sional free-for-all that has disfigured the English game sines. the Springboks' 1995 World Cup-winning squad - François
Pienzar, Joel Stransky and Rugi
Straueli - are already plying their
trade in the Courage league
along with fellow Test players

Steve Atherton and John Allan Oberholzer believes enough onerholder believes enough is enough. We have a responsi-bility to keep provincial and club rugby in South Africa-strong, he said, adding that he did not anticipate any challenge to the decision in the country.

Neil Jenkins, the Wales full back is to break new ground in his race to be fit for Saturday's meeting with France. The record Wales points-scorer his never worm a gurnshield, but the protective device could grain antee he plays in Paris.

Jenkins cracked his cheek hone during Puntypridd's Walst League victory over Caerphilly last weekend, the damaged area being just above his mouth, "Neil badly wants to play, and I want him to play," Keyin Bowring, the Wales coach, said after Jenkins had been men sured for a gunshield. "But I don't want him to do any more damage and put himself out for four, six or eight weeks:

Bowring must also make de-cisions on the centre Allan Bateman, the flanker Steve Williams and the replacement utility forward Craig Quinacil, though he had good news from the wing Ieuan Evans, who has recovered from a virus.

Bareman, who underwent knee surgery a fortnight ago, is confident he can resume his midfield partnership with Scott Gibbs. Neath's Williams had an X-ray on a thumb injury fol-lowing training, while Quin-nell could need a scan after



LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

LEAGUE TABLE

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 2 FEBRUARY

POS	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
1	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	JOSI MARTI	717
4	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	ANDIST	92 . ;
2	MR ASHLEY BRETTLE	RELEGATION 12	692
2	MR GARY HARROWS	IO STARS	692
5	MR GARFIELD MCCULLEN	GARFIELD BOYS SECOND	691
۵	MR WILLIAM BARR	KRUBGER EC	688
7	MR SIMON LIU	DEFENCE ROVERS	647
8 .	MR GRAHAM LONGSDANE	SANDLING STROLLERS	685
9	MR S KING	CRUISING ALEXANDRA	683
10	MR SIMON DRAPER	PLATE RC	678
10	MR RICK YAP	OUT OF MIND	678
10	. The state of the		e e e
13	MR NICK KNIGHT	KNIGHT'S NANA HEAD	677
13	MR IOHN COX	SOUTHFUL EC.	
13	MRI GODWIN	NORVOOD	677
	MR BRL COOPER	YEP MOP 2000	
 17	DR STEPHEN MATTHEWS	I MPERIAL BATES	440
17	DR HOME	THE PLYING FOXES	66
17 17	MR PAUL MATTHEW		669
20	DR TOM BOYLE	THE DOOR MAT	367
20 .	MR MICHAEL GREGGSON	LITTLE UNS	667
22		EDNA	
 22	WK ADAM HOGG	BLAGGY HOGG	-
4	MR A MORGAN	KIEK START	666
25	MR R RENNICK		
· ,	MR SEAN BROSNAN	WILD ROVERS	664
~,, 27	MR JONATHAN FURNESS	REDSTAR CARDIFF	
28	والمراز والمورد والمحورات والأراز والأراث والأراث	A CONTRACT OF THE PARTY OF THE CONTRACT OF THE	662
28	MR PAUL RICHARDSON	ORGANIC MANURE EC	
 30	MR DAVID ASHTON	CINCINATI STORM	661 ***********************************
30	MR & PRINGLE	DEEPDALE VILLA 7	
30	MR IAN GROUT	REGIT	660
30	MR JOE GOODING	_	660
	MR E HETHERINGTON	TEAM SQUIDLIPS	660 हास्तरकार्यक्रम
35	MR J JOLLY	A LIPETRIC SIE STATE SIE SE	660
36	(1) まりまいがた コールカラ (中国の中央の大学の大学)	JIMBO'S	659
36	MR JONATHAN MCCROSSEN	DOGSERICE	18.7. 638 2 3.
	MR ANTHONY CROW		658 1517 (2017)
36	MR K B MALCOLM	A CONTRACTOR OF A CAMPAGE CONTRACTOR	658
40	the state of the s	INTER MALCOIM	658
	MRTAUL HEMMINGWAY	WAGON WHEELS	657
40	MR M CROSLAND	OSNEY C LYONS	657
40,	MR PAUL CURRAN	NO DETAILS	657
40	MR D R KENNEDY	HAMMERS UNITED	657
	MR G MUREYIT	CLEW SHETS IC	656
44	MR C M DOWN	DEALS RESERVES	454
4	MR BARRY LEE	LE MANOR	656
47	MB BETED CUEDI AAV		
7 ,	MR DUNCAN FULLER	UNCOLN ST. GILES	
47	MD CIEVEN DADT	WF	
47	MR RAYMOND CNICKEN	ALLYE MEN FROM UNCLE 2	

THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY PHILIPS

supported by Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs.

The Team Market and Scores table published below, shows four scores. The Week 26 (Wk 26) column lists all points scored in matches played between Monday 3 February - Sunday 9 February inclusive. Column B lists all points scored before the transfer period. Column A lists all points scored after the transfer period. The Overall (Ov) column lists the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday

Also published today is the Top 50 League table (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Indepen-

🐧 oday we publish the latest results in our dent Fantasy Football managers and their teams—appear the following Sunday, in the Independent-Independent Fantasy Football game, for matches played between Saturday 17 August -Sunday 2 February.

Results will be published every Wednesday in The Independent for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also

SCORING SYSTEM

4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet **3** points for a successful assist **1** point when a player is selected and plays = 1 point for a winning goal # 3 points for a manager win, I point for a draw = Lose 1 point for a yellow card = Lose 3 points for a red card

on Sunday. The overall Top 50 League table will be printed every Wednesday and again on Sunday. Terms and conditions as previously published

PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

TEAM MARKET AND SCORES S. Belloce translate pathol

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 9 FEBRUARY; WEEK 26 SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 2 FEBRUARY - 9 FEBRUARY

• •

GRAND NATH

MUSSELBURY 20 Henry Hunder 2.40 Surgary 500 3.40 Furth and Chris 4.20 M

210 CONDITIONAL MERE

WOLVERHAM

Walter Dennis, Coome Hill's

trainer, would commit his horse

Gold Cup.

no further than the Cheltenham

have been favourite last year be-

for contracting something close

to a tropical disease on the eve

of the race, and Encore Un Peu.

Martin Pipe's runner-up ld

months ago, are both well tan-

cied as no other race has been

Lo Stregone, who would

If Oberholzer allies tine, the South Mich time, the Scann Albage feetively har any mack fights cashing in on the savnal free-for-all the figured the I ngish parties the summer. Three and the Springboks' 1983 Cup-witting squad-b Strauch - are already the trade in the Course to along with fellow less Sieve Atherion and long Oberholzer beliefag a enough. We have also

bility to keep printing clob rught in South strong, he said adopt did not anticipate and to the decision in the Neil Jenkins, the W back is to break new pa his race to be fit for a meeting with Franc record Wides pointend never worm a gumbale protection of the cord with the cord work a gumbale protection. protective device one antee he plays in Pag Jenkins cracked by hanc during Paniping League victory over Ca hast weekend, the day being just above her Neil badly wants to the I want him to pix Bowring the Waksney after Jenkins had hersured for a cumbididon't want him to don damage and put himsi:

four, Six or eight week

Bowring must along cisions on the conc Bateman, the flanks Williams and the repor utility forward Crago though he had godge the wine lenan Evange recovered from anna Rateman, who me knee surgery a formet: midfield partnershow? Cathirs, Neath's William! X-ray on a thurshoss hearing transport while nell could need a ca-



stramine his knee.

Sunday, in the Indepents if Top Str League table of aday and again on Suidpreviously published

secreted more pontells & Funtary Frenthall teams intate price a top to the ance. The names plus The action of a quality filicit choice, plus their fairest scorme te med of fickers to one of Emlifying pames at Wealth

ES S . He Core transfer P. SH 3 FEMALIARY 9 FEBRUS

B. W. IF IE IN THE PARTY IN THE PARTY

UZES the end of the second

RICHARD EDMONDSON For the purists, the next, perhaps only, racing milestone is the Cheltenham Festival, But for those who mix concrete, type letters or put waiting tickets on windscreens the first gentle rumbling occurred yesterday.
The Grand National remains

the great televised spectacle of British sport for the masses, and at the Dorchester Hotel in London yesterday the recondite procedure of allotting weights for the big-race field on 5 April was conducted.

The grand unveiling of the weights has lost its shock appeal since the Aintree obstacles were modified and the entries pinned with their official handicap marks. The constants that remain are the largesse of the sponsors, Martell, and an extraordinary compere's act from the former jockey Richard Pit-

ship between Martell, with its al fences made betting, even at

3.00 GLITTER ISLE (nap)

2.00 Mutanassib 4.00 Shanagore Warrier 2.30 Warner For Players (nb) 4.30 Over The Edge

5.00 Rasak

GOENG: Humiles course — Heavy (Soft in places); Chases — Soft (Good to Soft in places).

II. Leit-hand, sharp undulating course. Bin-in of 200yds.

II. Course is sooth east of storm on BEODE. Lingfield mation (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: All enclosures 19. CAR PARKE Cap 52; remainder free.

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH MINNERS: A Taxaell — 11 winners from 32 counters

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH EDINOSER: A Thrasell—11 winners fruth 32 runners gives a success ratio of 54.4% and a proft to a \$1 level stake of \$30.98; M Phys—11 winners, 53 runners, 20.3%, 416.85; E O'Sollivan—9 winners, 50 runners, 18.3%, 514.75; J Old.—8 winners, 23 runners, 34.3%, 423.55.

ILEADING JOCAETS: E Dunwoody—13 winners, 51 rides, 25.5%, 45.77; D Bridgwater—12 winners, 45 rides, 25.7%, 4224.46; A Magnire—10 winners, 56 rides, 17.9%, 421.91; D Gallagher—9 winners, 56 rides, 13.6%, 415.62.

BLINEREZD FURST TIME: None. WINNERS IN THE LAST ESVEN DATS: None. LONG-DISTANCE EUNIVERS: Assanders (4.30) has been sent 379 miles by R Ber from Seamer, North Yorkstire; Papation (2.30) & Spy Dessa (3.00) sent 213 miles by A Newcombe from Runnishaw, Desog.

2.00 ORPINGTON NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 110yda Penalty Value £3,225

SUSSAL I RECOVERALE (AS OF SE Pague) Anches Travel 6 11 9.

3PGF ARE (USA) (7) ES Pague) Anches Travel 6 11 9.

40342-3 RALLESHARDCH (46) Data Humanh Musacon) 8 Singel 5 11 3.

CHEENY CEMBULE (AND BOOM Highers) A Belly 5 11 3.

CHEENY CEMBULE (AND BOOM Highers) A Belly 5 11 3.

First lady of Aintree absent but not forgotten branded image of French so- the relevant parties (the Fourth won the National on two occaphistication and luxury (getting egless with style), and Aintree, where the streets are not paved with gold but rather last night's veneer of fish and chip wrapping, is rather odd.

Martell, however, do not remain in business because they dispense money mawisely. Much of their product has already found its way down the neck of

cluded) and there is always the promise of a BBC coverage which is hard to match in any sporting sphere, anywhere.

Pitman does his host's job regularly and with a consistently bawdy theme. His main track always seems to be to belittle his former wife, Jenny, who, unlike him, has actually

Estate are mercifully not ex- sions. We have protoably had enough of Pitman behaving The more serious razatter this

year concerns the Liverpool management effort's to get as many horses as possit sie into the handicap proper. On ly 27 went top-weight will now heave to car- or God's grace. The recent ante-post bet as the must sen-

entry qualifications - which barred such as the good stayer Killeshin last season - have been relaxed.

These days the Liverpool factor has limited significance. In olden times, an Aintree specialist was the equine equivalent to post last year, a figure which of an infantryman who sur-will be exceeded in A. pril as the vived the Somme by either skill

upset some of the firebrand dodderers, who presumably eujoyed watching the axle on the abattoir wagon scraping along the tarmac on the way out of the course, but it has also attracted the connections of the more

talented horses. It remains, however, a devil-

from Forster's string which has

provided three previous Na-

tional winners. Again, the train-

er refuses to be drawn, but

ry 12st (from 11st 10th) and the modification of the fences has our information for the race will be provided by the Cheltenham Festival, and even then a supping race will militate against fu-

ture success. The short-priced horse to ignore at this stage is probably Coome Hill, who is prepared on heach in Comwall, which is where the links with Red Rum ish race in which to have an end. Even after a lavish lunch and the accompanying liquids,

a race for him at Cheltenham."

out, but since he is effectively

just 816 higher for a seven-

length win at the Festival. Maa-

mur is both fairly weighted

and, with his seasonal debut im-

mment after recent rain, one of

the few whose odds could con-

Horse (Interesting #11 Death Floor /1 Lorster 12st

Manager (1 Forster 1044%)

Lo Spogono il Tate 10st4b)

Encore Un Peg 'M Pipe 10st

Buvard Dieu (N Gaselee/9st8Ib)

Go Ballistic (J O'Shea/9s(8th)

Number Onto -> No-ry 11s10th 26 1
Couldn't Sp Better (* Broke/11mb 25-1
Veget Manufacture ** 1

Ambak Egress A Henderson (044th) 33.1

Bishops Hall (H De Promissad 1041)b) 33 1

Son Of War if McDreen, 1047-lihi

Fast ground might rule him

contemplated for them since the Easter Bunny emerged. However, the press beam before Liverpool is bound to centre on Jenny Paman, who has entries for four horses and a second husband in 1997. The grand dame of British racing was ill yesterday, but her prospective blushing groom. David Stait, was available. Lenmy is upset she can't go to the weights lunch as she teels she has let people down," he said. "She has got this flu which is going round - although there are tract significantly. For those one or two pressinen she

wouldn't have minded passing

it on to." And an ex-spouse toe.

Martell Grand National Handicap Chase (4m 4f)

Idiote Venture (A.D Roen 100 30) 50-1 13-1 50-1 40-1

Avre Avece (M Carracho (0st2'b) 20-1 25-1 25-1 25-1

Tartan Tyrant (G. Picharts 9:1) 351 371 40 1 40 1 50-1

Destra Dove - Smon Earle (ter 13th) 75-1 25-1 33-1 33-1

 Autonin (Mrs.) Bound (1981) (200)
 \$0.1
 33.1
 33.1
 40.1

 Paperior Finish (Mr.) Priman (1981) (20)
 25.1
 40.1
 196.1
 33.1

 Communical Artist (N Gazelee (1981) (20)
 50.1
 100.1
 100.1
 100.1

Shiton Abbey 13 Hubbard 9st 11bt | 66-1 | 33-1 | 50-1 | 66-1 | 50-1 | 66-1 | 50-1 | 66-1 | 50-1 | 66-1 | 50-1 | 66-1 | 50-1 | 66-1 | 50-1 | 66-1 | 50-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 66

General Command (G Richards 948th) 33-1 25 1 20-1 25 1

Midnight Caller (N Chance/9st8th) 33-1 33-1 33-1 40-1

| General Persisting | D Nicholson/94/88b) | 50-1 | 50-1 | 50-1 | 50-1 | 50-1 | 50-1 | 50-1 | 50-1 | 66-1 | 66-1 | 50-1 | 68-1 | 66-1 | 50-1 | 68-1 | 66-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 | 68-1 |

10-1

Serry Bay (C Brooks 1043-b) 33-1 25-1 .5-1 Feathered Gale (A L T Moore-Stat/8h) 33-1 33-1

Selement filling :P Northers 1 (ist 1 in) 26-1 in 1 70-1 Backboard Bounce (G Richards 10x11m) 25-1 33-1 25-1 33-1

Young Huntler & 17thers, 10s1700 201 25-1 Finishing Shani & Motors, 10s7170 27-1 27-1 27-1

Chellender De Luc M.Ppe TiMPAS 33-1 33-1

Inhibition Lad Mrs / Percentitorists 33-1 28-1

ne Hill Ny Dennis (10st6h) 141 16-1

King Of The Gales IA L 1 Moone 1044th 50-1 13-1

Coral William Hill Ladbrokes

16-1 111

18-1

50-1 40-1 66-1 (0-1 33-1 33-1 31-1 40-1 25-1 25-1 20-1 25-1

Progressive Maamur makes early sense at 25-1 the remaining three entries to say, though I will try and find elmost two months' distance, an Dublin Flyer's trainer, was typ-

GRAND NATIONAL WEIGHTS: The search for this year's winner starts with the publication of the burdens the beasts must bear

Differences of oparion are what keep a punter's heart pumping, and it is not so long since the publication of the National weights was like a squirt of caffeine into a major artery. Everything about Amtree was so unique that questions of whether a chaser would get The buddy-buddy partner- the trip or take to the Nation-

mteresting proposition.
But no longer. In a general sense, the changes which have been made to the National course since a series of particnlarly unpleasant fatalities towards the end of the 1980s have been essential, since the race was coming to be seen as annecessarily bloodthirsty. From the long-range punter's point of view, though, the state

of the going on 5 April is now

by far the most important variable, and since recent National fields have faced booth fast and bottomless ground, few would blame us for saving a my bets un-til sticking plasters have been applied to the wount is of Chel-

A further imponde rable is the possibility that the weights could easily not rise at all - if Dublin Flyer lines up a under 12 stone - or alternative ly shoot up by a stone or more. T im Forster, Philips Cubic

Sections For PLAYERS, who beer three Edwin 15 lengths in a Newton last season, was a bit disappointing in his fast two runs over hundles but it increased when stapped up to three rides, finalizing lith to Young Kerny in the valuable Pristry in Newto Hundles Chaptonia. This combination of global and the wall so him perfectly, Dear prettypendrup, successful in a Heast humper from a stagle start in helend, at the lifely dang air. His form in two runs over traber so far has city been recleared but this startman test at stall bring the provisional. The other manners look moderate at beat, Martin Pipe's Roll Agialia and Nigel Tustion/Daves' Great's Profiles have shown lattle in a single bumper start, stach but have gloss properties in the company. So ches Paperfice, who exceed up last seas, for being heat on jost a hand by Spring Habe at Newton Abbot, strough she needed har it first has hard. Chertfer's Rolly and Forest Bill have shown a little solidy over traber, at the start has far Lovely was backed at Tong potts in a Health demander cross on his debut.

Selection: WARNER FOR PLAYERS

3.00 OXTED NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £4,9150 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,997

added 2m 110vds Penalty Value £2.201

11-F YOUNG AT REPORT (8-9) Laderes Contact Form 1x3 M Hayres 6 10 5 D Stycene (F-3442 MAGUST TWELFIRM (13) (D C O'Rien) D O'Rien 9 10 2 P Hide 450-22P EL GROUDO (1811) (M D Branton) K Cluntongram-Bown 7 10 1 D Ballageer

ically non-committal yesterday, and insisted that "no decision will be made until after the Cheltenham Gold Cup". Even if Dublin Flyer makes it to Liverpool, however, he is still essentially a two-and-a-half miler. and the old belief that stamina can be hoarded on the first circuit has vanished along with the potency of Becher's,

Maamer, winner of the Ritz Club Chase at the Festival last year, may prove to be the best of them. "Maamur has been waiting for some decent ground and if conditions are suitable. he will run at Warwick on Sat-

who want to step in at this stage. Of more interest - not least urday," Forster said. "As for the because the odds are longer is Grand National, it is too early the 25-1 offered by Ladbrokes #21-6803 EQUEY'S DARLING (22) (CD) falls v O'Brun' D O'Brun' 5 13 3 ... P Mile 8
#64-040 FORDAREROUGE (23) Air-7 on 5 Typen G Bacing f 13 1 ... In Francisco
00220-5 DARCHIN DARGER (2008) DI N R Clarke 1) Geologich § 10 8 ... J Bappillo
005430 AMBERT THYRONG (24) Quick regent 13 Milecount 6 10 7 ... J Relegion
000800- RED LIGHTS (25) Air C ** Arestous J Old 8 10 5 S Spain
2029 RED LIGHTS (25) Air C ** Arestous J Old 8 10 5 S Spain
2029 RED LIGHTS (25) Air C ** Arestous J Old 8 10 5 S Spain
2029 RED LIGHTS (25) Air Rock C ** Arestous J Old 8 10 5 S Spain
2029 ROCKET (25) Air C ** Arestous J Old 8 10 5 S Spain
PAPOLO CENTRE LILLEY (22) Air C ** Arestous J Old 8 10 0 ... J R ** Arestous

- 1A doctored -Maneraum wegfor, 10st. True handicap wegfor, Mass Materie 9er 9er. BETTIME: 4-1 Total Joy, 5-1 Loui Rockte, 11-2 Rockteen Bridge, 6-1 Systy's Busting, 7-1 bly Num in Danjalik, 8-1 Foundalmongs, 8-1 Stangare Warrier, 13-1 Amber Word, Red Lighter, 14-1 others 1996: Trickeny's Git 6-10-13 M Ameter 5-1 Gr. Moore' 16 not

Laters incerty's list 6 16 13 M Absence 5-1 To C Moore: 16 min

PORM GUIDE.

The application of blorkers centurity worked in Equity's Danking's favour at the last meeting, the more consenting to jump off and beating Lady High Shariff a length and a hart. The blinkers are on again but there must be every chance that, she will rever to earlier behaviour, such as were written refused that to Rady. Wood a beating to race in Pladey Wood's Pumpton cace. Total Joy finished that to Rady, Wood, beating about the lengths, a good first effort in a handscap and the cart again go well, with Richard Durwoody in the saddle once more this big weight may anchor him, though, and preference is for ROSKEEN BRIDDE, who was placed in a course of points in treated. He can his best race in this country last time to be that to Airus Sot if at Rollestone, beatin eight lengths (Equity's Daring taked-off), and turs off the same mark. The booling of Norman Williamson is encouraging. Shesselpore Warrior, an encouraging thad to Scotilly over a longer top at Newton Airus that new home. The booking of Norman Williamson is encouraging, Shemagore Warrior, an encouraging that to Scotby over a longer top at Newton Abbot iso three, may not be sured by this shorter the and Sheshed behind Roskean Bridde in an inchinated head of the sured by this shorter the The booking or recurring the Mewton Abbott list time, may not be suited by this structer unuand Sinished behind Roskeen Bridge in an Irich point-to-point. He must concede my selection 17th today. Postalenestuge, stoath of 14 to Top Javetin at Newton Abbot, was a disappointment in River Mye's Stratford size less time, while lightly weighted habber filling does
not look all that keen and is, an unknown quantity on the ground. Lived Roseble has abbity
but will do well to dely 12st, while ally Mean to Davidelik was pulled up in Equity is Daring's
race having won a Hereford seller and may also have enough weight.

Selections ROSKEIN BRIDGE

4.30 R E SASSOON MEMORIAL HUNTERS CHASE (CLASS H) £1,350 added 3m Penalty Value £1,110

HETENGE 7-4 Holland House, 7-2 Colonial Kelly, 4-1 Vicency de Valencet, 13-2 Over The Felge, 8-1 Aventar, 14-1 Fifth Amendment, 18-1 Amendment, 20-1 Parings, 25-1 others 1998; Holland House 10 11 7 Mr C Vigors 2-1 (P Charings) 9 cm HOLLAND HOUSE was left with an easy task in this race last year after a couple of his main

hiels took the wrong course. He did nothing wrong alterwards, finishing a creditable fifth to Elegant Lord at Cheltenham, beating Coome His a head at Chepstow and lending a marathon race back at Cheltenham by saven lengths from Harmes Harvest (Parlinglo taided-off). Hol-land House has the ground to suit and should get the season off to a good start. Colonial Kelly git only as far as the third in the Cheltenham Forfuniter but enjoyed a successful sea on otherwise, winning a point at Horseheath and hunter chases at Newbury and Southwell in addition to finishing second to Mauding in a novice event at Aintree. He will wan races this season. Over The Edge, winner of three points and two hunter chases, at Sandown and Folkessone, lost year, has the advantage of a recent run, having been a close second to Surny Mount in an open at Marks Tey. Out-and-our stayer Viccompt De Valamont should do well in this sphere and is another well suited by testing ground. Selections HOLLAND HOUSE

nn!	LEVY BOARD INTERMEDIATE OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS)
~	H) £1,500 added 2m 110yds Penaity Value £1,319
1	CLERADUFF MOLL (99) (John Duggan) N Tesston-Daves 6 11 5
	BROOK BEE (The Sagn Partnersho) N Caselee 5 11 4
D	DONTCRILINEGEORGE (13) (H.) Erws) J Best 6 11 4
	HOLD MY HAND (Dove Door) P Channes 6 11 4
	BRONAMOUTH WAY DATE V R W Maler) P Chemings 5 11 4B Festion
-	MALLAF (Ms Ann Woodrow) Mrs & Woodrow 5 11 4 J. A McCarthy
	PAPENTANCE (NZ) (W H Lifler) A Hobbs 5 11 4
4	RASAK (21) (Lady Hernes) Lady Hernes 5 11 4
32	ROYAL POT BLACK (12) (8F) (A Luse) P Hooks 6 11 4
. 86	BESSE GREY (159) (Max Car Celley! 9 Heater 6 10 13
	OVERBILIDOURAG RT S Mantheway A Harrey 5 10 13
3	CRACKON DAKE (12) (Erne Houghport J Moore 4 10 8 W McFestand
	FIN SEC (FR) (A A ring) A longs 4 10 8
0	FRED MOTH (21) (Antony Charles Brown) T Hard 4 10 8 D Signal
	2 14 decimal -
NE: 9-4	Rasak, 3-1 Correctelf Moll, 11-2 Royal Pot Black, 6-1 Cracton John, 19-1 Brook See,

16-1 Sebe Grey, Hold My Hand, 20-1 Monmonth Way, Paperprises, 25-1 other 1998: Bource Man 6 11 2 G Brade, 9-4 U Old 17 ran 2. 233 FRECON'S PLANE (N.E.) (SP) V Prompton 10.12 Mr M Thompson
3 8 FORMINABLE PART MER (22) Mrs V Ward 10.12 ... B Storey V
4 0 MWYS (25) P Months th 10.12 ... A Dobbie
5 045 MRITHER (20) (26) 44 Horozond 10.12 ... R Genetity
6 0FU SOUNDS DEMONS (26) 44 Horozond 10.12 ... R Genetity
6 0FU SOUNDS DEMONS (26) 45 Agent, 7-2 Papace's Planes, 5-1 Formidable Partner, 25-1 Rosses, 57) - 1 Scanda Devices.

9 (FUZP- POLISCAL ISSUE (300) (D) T Robson 13 12 (L. life P Johnson (5) BETTIME: 7-4 Master Kit. 4-1 Housens, 13-2 Pose Tanader, 8-1 Piper O'Drawssond, 10-1 Kincheloyia, Master Mons, Political issue, 14-1 Utile Woolook, 50-1 Pick Quay

-13 declared -Minimum weight; 10st. True handings weights: Grafton Lake 9st 12th. Car x-DECEMBER Set 78: BETTING 109-30 Hopeone Above, 9-2 Mr Christin, 11-2 Chester, 13-2 Cath Box, 8-1 Utils Redwing, 16-1 Ebernd City, 16-1 Mountey Spring, Crollen Lake, 18-1 Printy Thyros, Dakssmin, Dackmar, 28-1, others

4.20 LILY SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) £4,000 added 3YO 67

| 2003-0.5 | SOURCEMENT | SOURC

0322-12 SLP JE (14) (20) (20) K Sude 4 10 0_

LEICESTER 4.40; 1. MERRY MASQUERADE in the 11-81%; 2. Prime Example 4.1; 3. No Gir LINGFEELD

1.80: 1. SWEET WILESHING AT HER

sort 3 Tax: 2. In Sport: 1 3 Father Dan

11: 1 6 ran. 1 1 . dentifier to the Table: 14-20: 12: 21: 1 . dentifier to the Table: 14-20: 12: 21: 1 . dentifier to the Table: 15-20: 1 . dentifier to the Table: 1 . dentifie

& Not won: £7,011.98 came / forward

¥ THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTABLES RESULTS MLESSELBLIRCH

LINGFIELD

NAP: Eau De Cologne

(Lingfield 2.00) NB; Warner For Players

(Lingfield 2.30)

2. Contile Ashley have 12. 1. 2. Son Guest 11.1 B ma. 4-6 to Bub. (Light 12. 1). 3. Gen Guest 11.4 B ma. 4-6 to Bub. (Light 12. 1). 2. (Rignamo, Toke 15. 3). 12. 30, 12. 30 DF. 150, CSI 133. 37. 1.50; 1. SROUGHTONS FORMULA IN P. McCatch 4-1; 2. Guest Allianon 7-1. 3. Wet-

ACCOC* 4-1: 2. Guest Allianon 7-1: 3. Wet-testimethies 11-16 fax 8 ren. 1 1. 67 kbr. son). Total 56 20: 51-20: 51-20: 51-20: PE 442-30: SSF 12-67-1 Indicate 557-21. 4-30: IL PRINCELY SOUND (M. PARIO 11-4

2.50: 1. STEAMROLLER STANLY 10 fts: ps/9-4 fat 2. Brilliant Red 11-4, 3. Alartic 100-30. Sees. 11-4, 2 famo. Total E2-10 £1-30, £1,20, DF £7,70 CSF 18,22

2.10 Henry Hoolet 2.40 Singing Sand 3.10 Meltem-ison 3.40 Forward Gien 4.10 Master Kit 4.40 Littie Redwing COLING CODE IN PRIN.

Eight-hand oval course with tight turns.

Course is 5m cast of Edukargh on AJ. Bus link from Edinburgh station 5m. ADMISSEON: Carb \$12; Turnersells \$6 (OAPs and unemployed \$3). Accompanied under-16s free. GAE PARK: Pres.

SUNDERED FIRST TIME: Formidable Partner (2.10). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Murder Moss (4.10) wan at Abasick point-to-point on Sunday.

LONG-DETANCE KUNNEER: Formidable Purbaer (3.10) has been sent 278 miles by Mas V Ward from Assby, Uncohester. 2.10 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £3,000 added 2m

1 12:000 Vertrade RED (#) 6 Reheats 7 11:10 E-Callegian
2 800-5P1 PALACE OF BODD (#) (D) Livrago 7 11:3 (Fee) M Develog (5)
3 560-000 HESPIT HOULET (8) (85) P Marketh 8:11:0 C MacCompant (8)
4 P42-000 BUDD 8:5F (25) (15) (15) (20) 9:10:11 M Hymton
5 403-003 TOPTAO (8) C Porter 7:10 6 Septem Develope (7)
6 U-64023 OMERIES (8) Miss L Schild 5:10:5 Septem Develope (8)

HYPERION

1.50 Eite Hope 2.20 Don Sebastian 2.50 Shaldyr 3.20 Dawalls 3.50 Sparkling Edge 4.20 Contravene 4.50 Studio Thirty

GOING: Standard.

GOING: Standard.

STALLS: 77 & 1 m of — outside; remainder — inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High numbers best from 67 to 1 m of.

Wibresard, left-hand, oval opune.

Gourse is north of town on A449. Weiverhempton station 1 m.

ADMIRESTOR: Cith 515, Thiermails 56 (OAP members of Immund.

Cith 54); Viewing Restaurant \$25.90 including envince and meal.

CAE PARKE; free.

nerginio, 11.6 Manuals, 9.2 Etta Hope, 13.2 Manuals (7) S Valentino, 5.2 Sold Etiot, 12.1 Manuals, Barrel Of Hope, Rag Rat, 29.2 Marchine, 5.2 Sold Etiot, 12.1 Manual, Barrel Of Hope, Rag Rat, 29.2 Marchine, 5.2 Sold Etiot, 12.1 Manuals, Barrel Of Hope, Rag Rat, 29.2

2.20 DAFFODIL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 370 1m 1f 79vis 94522 DOM SERISTRIK (95) W Hugges 9 0 _____ D Holland 7 O FRONT VIEW (97) E Lieux 9 0 _____ T Williams 9 0- HERRY VIEW (87) B Liberthy 9 0 View (10 to 1) Table 2

18716 THE THE TIGHE B PRINCE 9 0 P. To 1 Table 2

18716 THE THE TIGHE B PRINCE 9 0 P. To 1 Table 2

4- SER ALEDAY (2005) 0 OTHER 9 0 D. V Sandery A

5- VIEW (1005) CONNECT (1005) C Brook 9 0 D. D Nobelon 11

5- WHET AND REE (105) R Hollechard 9 0 D. D Gratine (5) 6

1871 THE TIGHT (105) THE

1.50 RIS HANDICAP (CLASS C) (DIV I) 573005 250 E4,000 added 1m 6f 186yds

added 3YO 5#

A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR

4.50 ROSE APPRENTICES HANDICAP (GLASS E) £4,100 added 1m 4f

7 O. GREETS PROFILES (SIGN) (Fourier Profiles List) N Twiston-Downs 5 11 8 _____ I) Northly
8 QULPP-D BidM MODD (63) (Licta Faucht) I Georgis 7 11.8 _____ IM Circles (7)
10 F. Jan LONELY (S-G, N) A Conhert J Houtle 5 11 8 _____ A Ninguise
11 S. ROLL AGARD (26) (Autory Scientist) M Pipe 6 11.8 _____ C. Manufe
12 331-545 WINSHEET FOR PLAYERS (CIL) ((lary Miner Spored Printin 6 11 8 _____ N Ninguise
13 400 WILLIAMS ROULETE (60) (Miss Juyne Board) A Hothe 5 11 8 _____ N Ninguise
14 604-000 DERROSELLE (72) (Miss S W Patrice) D Williams 6 11 3 _____ M Clerke
15 553 FOREST BILL (400) (Miss Suprime And Monocorbe 5 11 3 _____ N Industrial
16 QPP2: PAPPERO (312) (Lark Market) Systems A Monocorbe 5 11 3 _____ D Gallagher
16 QPP2: PAPPERO (312) (Lark Market) Systems A Monocorbe 5 11 3 _____ D Gallagher
17 Section Williams Williams For Physics, 7-2 Desconting List in Papellia, 11-1 Brance Edwin, 14-1
Rell Agein, My Lovely, 16-1 Georg's Profiles, 20-1 Charlie's Folly, 25-1 others
1996: Suprincy Relt 7 11 8 D Bidigenter 15-8 (M Pipe) 14 tan

1998: Resis Errard 8 11 4 9 Ciflord 12-1 f5 Balding 9 cm

With Blody main market mats Augusto's Double and With Impumity both having a year's absence to overcome, SILITER SILE should follow up his recent chesing debut "success. Josh Ciflord's nunner, a maiden over hardes, was always well up there in the 1 cm make a market market in down hyme two largins clear of Geold. He sayed two and a half miles well over hundles, so this longer trip is very mach as his it prour. Angelo's Double reads up stop a smart staying handcap hundler lest season, whating tup with a third to Saeding Cash at Asson, and carriably has the ability to wan nices over 5 choss, 50 does With Impurity, who was highly bed in nonce chaese last season but are creditionly on a two occasions, ancluding when 11 lengths second to Natistian Lad at Markick. The testing ground will suit. Reseatation is 49-equipped with if a bithress that saw him finish a close second to Porphydos at Worester in November and, a shough seemingly out of his depth, could sheek into a place. Andy Turnel also runs the 1 milden Silpsedic, a first-fence failer at Unicester on her chasing debut. Plumbridge Looked good in venning and finishing a close second from two starts in point-to-points last.

Selection: CILITER ISLE CHERRY CHARLE Dies J E Trejon J Filtoh-Hoses 5 11.3

3636-OS CLOCK WICKHERS CLIS W R States J Bidger 9 11.3

DIA GENERY BAS Outcome Content C Drey 6 11.3

3 EAU DE COLOCHE (LIS) (D and M Sente Mar 1, Returne 5 11.3

3 FITTS NO FROD (SAG) Figs No Fool Persenting J Dol 7 11.3

3 3344 PROF COLOGNE ARD (SIS) Dreit Antives B ED + Name 6 11.3

OCTO E MEZZO (J P M S J W COOK) M Prignes 5 11.3

2 4 RESINO DESIGNE FIS SAMP PERSENT GL. Micro 5 11.3

OCO BALLYQUINGER FAS (K) H Hodge 6 10.12

F HARRIST GOISE FIS (K2) (L A Wardbourd R 6 Subtan 4 10.7

2 MICHINASSIE (12) Philosole B Jones M Fige 4 10.7

- 25 Statement -- 15 dictional -munit, 11-2 Major Bringh, 8-1-East de Cologne, 7-1 Frys No Fool, 9-1 Harbet De, 12-5 hory Countie, 14-1 Indicentables, 16-1 Otto E Mozzo, 33-1 others 3.30 THREE COUNTIES HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925

Retainent, 22-5 fory County, 14-2 References somethe, 12-5 fory County, 14-2 References tagle 4 12 0 0 Retainer 7-4 (8-Pool 14 sm Points GMDE - 6 declared -HETTIME: 6-4 Hokarty's GML, 7-2 Winstord Hill, 9-2 August Twelfth, 8-1 Mipper Rees (J. 11-1 El Grae-

of the number until colleged by Pirese Feathings on the run-in, going down two tengos. Hell-	
brother to winning huntlers Cabochon and Sudden Spin, he should be able to maintain that	٠
family tracition under a light weight. Jim Old, Three Familings' trainer, is represented by Frys	
No Foot. A pumper winner at Towcester lest season but subsequently beaten at odds-on at	
Uppositer, he will appreciate this testing ground and will have no problems on the stamina	
from Harbet House was in the process of running a good first race over hundes when falling	
two out in Cheerful Aspect's rate at the last meeting here. East De Cologne also did well	
on his hundred how, tinishing third to Mutanassib's stablemate Pomme Secret at Plumpton	
in what was a classy race for that course. He should again have the begang of fourth-placed	
lvory Coaster and Clock Watchers (filt). Transaille, who made a winning return in a War-	
wick notice insertices recently, faces a stiffer task today, that Rising Dobgis, namer-up to	
Boiver here last year and a close sixth to Hamilton House in the Free Handicap Hurdle at	
Chenstow on his return, should go well despite a four-month absence. Selection: MUTANASSIB	
2.30 SANDERSTEAD MADEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 7f Peselty Value £2,729	
19 20 SAMBENSIEAN MANUEL HUNDLE (CLASS E) 22/3/23 BIDGO	
2m 7f Pegalty Value £2,729	

what was a classy race for that course. He should again have the beating of fourth-placed	= 0 DECEMBE =
WIRT WAS 2 CASSY INCO IN USE COURSE. TO SHOULD ARREST INVESTIGATE OF A CASSA	SETTING: 5-4 Tickerty's GMI, 7-2 Winsford Hill, 9-2 August Trealfds, 5-1 (Speet Record, 21-1 El Crae-
ory Conster and Clock Wintchers (Ship. Transalle, who made a winning return in a War-	do. 12-1 Young At Hourt
ck novice hemolicap recently, faces a stifler task today, but Rising Dobigle, number-up to	1996: Hostansk 7 11 11 B Ferson 3-1 (M Marjaneth) 8 spn
river here last year and a close such to Hamilton House in the Free Hendicap Hurdle at	
eostow on his return, should go well despite a four-month absence. Selection: MUTAWASSIB	FORM GUIDE
	Course specialist TICKERTY'S GIFT regained the winning thread at the last? meeting here
2.30 SANDERSTEAD MADEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added	with an eight-length success from Shephania Rest and can go in egain. Successful four times 1
3 3/A SANDERSTEAD MADJEN HUNDRE (CLASS E) \$2,925 20080	here lest season, including on this card, Gary Moore's seven-year-old remain in fairly treated
2m 7f Pessalty Value £2,729	on a 3th higher mark than last time. Four of Tickenty's Gdt's was, including time latest, have
and it it terms y terms and a	been over a longer top, but he won over the distance lest March - by two let light from Ne.
020-0; (BB)(NE EDRIN (22) (NE Sturi) J Old 7 11 8	
46 CHARLES FOLLY (21) (Charle Pectucions) B De Haan 6 11 8	mests, making most - and the most eroportant factor is that he again has this ground in his
SA101-FP CREDO BOY SOU (K Bishop) X Bishop 8 11 8 A Powell	favour. Lightly-reced Wilesford HBI shaped with promise on his handicap deligit at Towces-
1-25 DANICETE DYGGEROP (72) Denk Miland P Notale 6 11 8	ter recently when a close lifth to No More Hassle and can stop litter, as he was returning .
PP FILSTHOM LEADER (1815) Chaid Wood C Wheeler S 11 8	from a 10-week break then. Ripper Reed, who won four of his last five starts for Rod Simp-
17 PROPERTY CLASS (LINE) THE PARTY OF LAST	son in 1994-95, weakened quickly from three out in Nashwile Star's Bangor race on Fortey
52110-P @301E RNE (13) 91 Janes J Best 7 11.8Mr P O'Keethe (7)	
O. GREE'S PROFILES (361) (Educine Profiles Link M Truston-Daves 5 11 8 T J Marphy	after making all last season. Richard Dunwoody rides today and this front-ru man may take
OCUPYO BIGH MOOD (85) (John Fiscoti) T George 7 11.8	on Tickerty's Gift for the lead. Young At Heart, successful on his hunding by aw back in Au-
KONGS AFFARE CRIS Observe Brand P Hodge 7 11 8 M Criston (7)	ingust 1994, tail early in Most Equal's Huntington race in December on his first triant since in 1994, tail early in Most Equal's Huntington race in December on his first triant since in 1994, tail early in Most Equal's Huntington race in December on his first triant since in 1994, tail early in Most Equal's Huntington race in December on his first triant since in 1994, tail early in Most Equal's Huntington race in December on his first triant since in 1994, tail early
F MET LOYELY (5-0 Ht A Cashon) J. Havillo 6 11 8 A Magain	and looks up against it here. So does El Grando, who has not raced since Serbtemper, while
C Hearle	Austrest Twellith has been rather desopportung since a good retrun there at Vivindsor.
5 ROLL AGAIN (20) Ontary Scienton M Pipe 6 11 8	Selection: TX CXERTY'S CIFT
331-545 WEIGHER FOR PLAYERS (11) (Terry Wanner Sports) P Houte 6 11 8	SECTION INTERITY SEE

4.00 WARLINGHAM HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,1575 added 2m 3f 110yds Ponetty Value £2,250 5-48006 DOUBCIME, DICE (5) R Allen 6 10 3 ______ S Melmose RURBOS . BURROW (5) Mrs A Nangkon 5 10 2 _____ Millichael Bertrag .0050-0 1938EFRH (2) 6 Mrs / 10 0 _____ B Gestan .050200 SEDORIUS #6670 (15) I Golde 6 10 0 _____ G Calair

Minimum weight: 10st. True hardicap weights: Kiernetim Sat 7th, Seconds Away No. 55. SET TRUE: 2-1 Paince Of Cobi, 9-2 Coderry, 5-1 Tiono, 6-1 Vistage Red, 8-1 Doubling Dion, 19-1 Serry Hocket, 12-1 Burks Bet, 14-1 Securdo Avey, 29-1 James, 25-1 Rismetius

2.40 ANDERSON STRATHERN NOVICE HCAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 Stoned 271
F41-60 PETS A DARCER [6] Miss 14 Rissol 5 12 C.... A Thomston
8-30042 APPENRAGE MOMENT [15] F Marphy 6 11 10 P Carbony
F223-F5 INTOW-MO-MD [15] M Momental 8 11 3 R Samply
G2-625 SHAMIN SAND [15] P Moreland 7 10 11 R Samply
G2-625 SHAMIN SAND [15] P Moreland 7 10 11 R Samply
G2-625 SHAMIN SAND [15] F DEST 7 10 1 R Johann
F7-0UI-SPECIAL SHOWN [25] F Jens 7 10 4 D Bently
G4-64P MSS MOM [25] F Jens 7 10 4 D Bently
GCPO-00 SHIT TP (70) MS E Mostro 6 10 0 P Pently
Composition 10 P. Volume Residence Met. More for 11h Shut In

Minimum weight: 10st, True handcap weights: Miss More 9st 11th, Shar Up 9st 116. METHER: 10-11 Appendixon Money, 100-30 Singley Send, 9-2 Know-Ho-No, 11-2 Hour's A Dencer, 12-1 Sciencesegh, 25-1 Most Rick, 33-1 others

3.10 TOM MCCONNELL MEMORIAL HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,200 added 470 2m 6 DOUBLE AGENT (25) J Howard Johnson 10 12 P Car

4.10 FFE HUNT CLUB CUP HUNTERS CHASE (CLASS H) 152,000 added 3m | Mes V Juciana (5) | 1- Wester Kill (272) | 1 Diangs 8 12 7 | Mr 1 State (7) | Pessipo - Pessi Quary (270) (10) May K Lamb 14 12 0 | Miles S Lamb (7) | 3432/2- Prince Transfer (2775) D Fashum 8 12 0 | Mr C Storny (6)

3.20 RIS HANDIO AP (CLASS C) (DIV E) £7,300 added 7f

3.40 JR MCNAIR HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F)

£4,000 added 3m

3.50 FREESIA HAMDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900

Rocket 7st 25.

BETTIME: 11-4 Silp Mg. 3-1 Shorax, 3-2 Raindoor Quest, 5-1 Soviet King.
7-1 Northern Motto, 10-1 Studio Thirty, Ambidestrous, 18-1 Sam Rock-

Each-way a quarter the order, places 1, 2, 3, 4 (Antron, Schools), 5 A rend in this case

LEICESTER

2.00: 1. MACGEORIES, A Maggart 7-4 Lt.;
2. Sallor Jim 4-1, 3. Hought 12-1, 8 ran.
18. 5. Ji Jim 4-1, 3. Hought 12-1, 8 ran.
18. 5. Ji Jim 4-1, 3. Hought 12-1, 18 ran.
18. 5. Ji Jim 5-1, 5. Jim 5-1, 70. CSF.
18.27. 1-CSS. 15-1, 78
2.30: 1. APROXE PARK, Dickington 14-1:
2. Threasonin 12-1-3, Tabs 2-1 for 19 ran.
1/4, 13. Jim Sheppard, Leibney, Toba;
17.60: 12-50, CSB, 62-50, 16-10-10.
CSF. F158-32. Tro. 12-33.10
3.00: 1. Jists BRUCE (A. Galet 7-1-2.
Prank Haroms 100-1: 3. Charlie Parrox 13-2
11 ran. 4-5 fa. Ercha (4ch 2. 17. Abr.
14-40. DF: 17-5.30. CSF. E-11-9.1. Ho.
13-40. DF: 17-5.30. CSF. E-11-91. Ho.

£144.20 3.30: 1. MERLINS DREAM J 0kborn-1 3.30: 1. MERLINS DREAM J Ochornii 11-2, 2. Romany Creek 7-1-3. Act of Per-liment 9-2 9 nm. 9-2 fa. Sharef Light Sen. ... 8-10 Sherwood, Upper Limbourni Tober 16-20: 11-60, 11-80, 21-60, 05-120, 10-CSF, 139-49, Incar: 1170-64 Inc. 159-20 4.00: 1. FOR ROMED James Extra 17-3; 2. Chrons Star 6-1: 3. Topagiow 50-1, 20 nm. 11-10-2a. Portrie Sected. 5. ... All Fig., Metageor. Tober 15-8 20: 112-10, 11-70, 118-70, DF: 547-20, CSF, £156-37, The Nati wor: 5315-78 Larred Toward to Lagretia 4-00 today Non Rather. Princip Allia.

in Lagreet toda.

Piscepot: £204.50. Quadpot: £28.70.

Pisce S: £301.50 Pisce S: £194.40.

SF. 514.70. Top 613.70
3.40: 1. COLONEL DI CHEF /P Content)
5-4 to 2. BN Knibeth 11-8.3. Desperate
Days 100-1. 5 mm. Det. 55. 45 Schuets,
Generative, Yoke 13.00, 11 50, 11.10 DY61.10 SF: 53.00. £1.20 USF: £3.02.
4.10: 1. RALLEGEO: A Fuctor 7-2 co fee,
2. Nicholas Plant 7-2 co fee, 3. Netherby
Said 7-2 co fee, 9 ran, 5. 11... P Monardo,
Rosswelli. Tobre: £3.10. £1.30. £3.10.
£1.20. DF: £9.20. CSF: £34.75. Treast:
£40.49. fee: £11.70

WORLD CUP, GROUP TWO QUALIFIER: England v Italy, Wembley, 8pm tonight

Where the game will be won and lost



Don Howe talks to Glenn Moore about who will prevail in the key tactical battles in tonight's match

Erdands aktori (in suggest

he most dicey area for the Italians is the goalkeeping. In the last few months I have seen some horrendous goalkeeping mistakes in Serie.4. Angelo Peruzzi. who is expected to play tonight, has made some of them.

We know what goalkeepers are like and it is possible he will go out there and play out of his skin but it must be a worry for them.

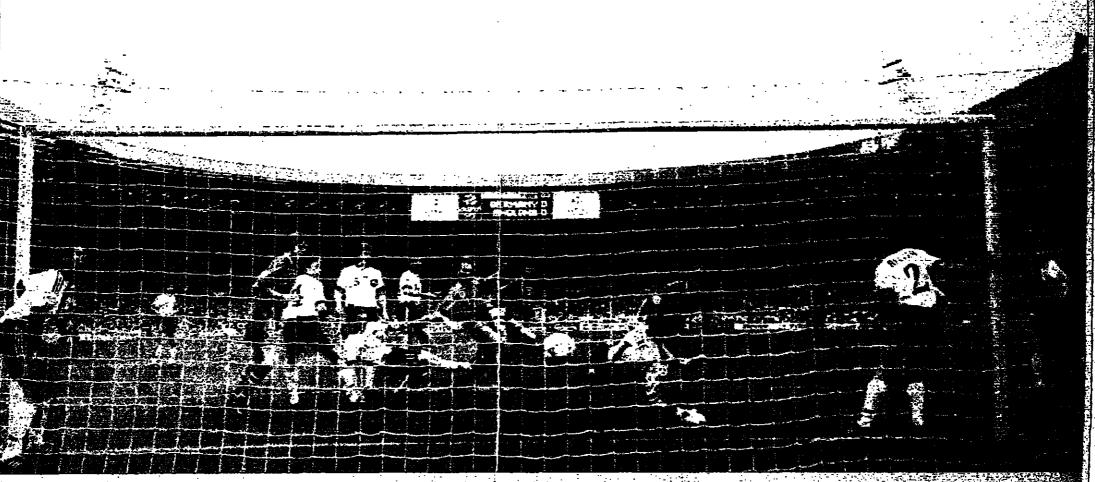
They also have a problem in defence. Cesare Maldini has come in as coach and it looks like he will play a spare defender at the back. But in recent years top Italian sides, like Milan and Juventus, have been playing zonal back fours, like we always used to. They have now run out of sweepers.

Christian Panucci has been sugested as one but I've never seen him play sweeper. He's usually a right-back but, though he is good on the ball, his weakness is his defending. He would be a good wing-back.

Paolo Maldini is another possible sweeper who is a wonderful wingback. He would also be excellent at the left side of a back three; he could break from there as well.

Ciro Ferrara played sweeper against Northern Ireland last month but it is aimost certain he will mark Alan Shearer. He has been the most outstanding centre-back in Italian football these last few years.

This will not worty Alan. He will work him and work him. He knows at some point in the 90 minutes he will get away, maybe it will be a header at the far post, or a dart at the near. And when he does, that is his chance to score. Ferrara knows that



Again they have more problems than

us. If Paul Ince is fit, Glenn's prob-

lem is whether to play Gazza or

Steve McManaman as the one who

breaks from midfield. David Batty

and Ince have been so solid he will

If Ince does not make it Batty will

have to play a more central role.

Jamie Redknapp could come in. Whenever he has played in international football he has looked

They are also very solid. They

will have Demetrio Albertini.

want to keep them together.

These could well decide the game and Glenn will have been working hard on them - England teams above).

I think we have more chance of scoring from them than they do, as we did in the Euro 96 semifinal against Germany when Shearer put us ahead

ward. It will be tough in midfield. There is no one like the wonder-

ful Giancarlo Antognoni there - but they have Gianfranco Zola

Zola is the problem. He will drift

around. Does Glenn go man-for-man

or does he decide we have enough

ability to pick him up wherever he goes? He is the best player I have seen

at drifting wide of the back three and setting behind the pushed-in full-

back. I would man-mark him with

Gareth Southgate or Sol Campbell

early on from a well-worked corner (pictured

the line. He's a better finisher than

Pierluigi Casiraghi and bette t on the

floor. Casiraghi is better in the air.

He is also good at pressing, he will

Piero. They say he cannot play in the

same side as Zola - is that Cesare

Maldini playing a dummy? In goal we do have the bett er qual-

Both sides will have good players on

the bench. We may have Les Fer-

dinand and probably eithen Gazza

Then there is Alessandro Del

chase defenders.

ity in David Seaman.

If we get all our big guns up there, all the centre-backs, at corners and fre p-kicks, we could put them under a lot of pressure. Their goalkeepers are not the best at conting out and catch-

to drop back on the goalline at free-kicks and he he knows he can put him on to give

kicks but we have Beckhant.

Zola can deliver free-kicks anywhere and we

Peace was given responsibility to decide whether-

without a goal. He may spring a complete surprise and play McManaman off Shearer with freedom to go at defenders. It is not a bad idea - he does his best work for Liverpool when he finds space in the inside-left spot.

the Italians a new problem if we have

got into the middle of the second half

It has been difficult for Glenn to plan. When Arrigo Sacchi was manager of Italy you knew exactly how they would play. Now he only has one game to go on. But Maldini has only had one game to work with his players.

Neither coach will find it easy to change things. I could understand Glenn trying to get Wembley to put a bench close to the pitch. It is one

New designer

for Ferrari

The former Benetton designer

Rory Byrne will take over from

John Barnard as chief design-

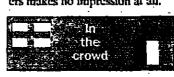
Byrne, who served Benetton

er at Ferrari next week.

Motor racing

If Glenn starts without Ferdinand, messages on. Shouting at the play-

have to be well rehearsed. At Euro 96 Stuart ger - he soured a great



It will be a super atmosphere, just like Euro 96. There could be one significant difference, though, One of the nice things about the summer is that I never thought the crowd were nervous. I have a feeling they will realise that tonight's a bit different, that this is a World Cup qual-

ifying campaign and we have to win. I would hope they will still have that sense of enjoying themselves because their mood can affect the players. Glean will be telling the players to be patient. the crowd will be wanting an early goal

Conclusion

draw will be a good result for Italy: They have that last game to come in lialy. We have to take the game to-

It won't be a high scoring match buit it is a hard one to call. It looks like a draw but we now have players who can get us a goult Shearer, Ferdinand, Beckham. England to win 1-0. Dun Howe was Ron Greenwood's assistant when England heat Italy in the 1978 World Cup qualifier, and Bobbs Robson's assistant when they wet in th

1990 finals. He was Terry Venables

plunship and is now the Euglball

Association's technical co-ordinator

Howe also commentates on Italian foot

assistant during the European Cham

Scimeca's

stepping out of the back three to do Roberto Di Matteo and Dino Bagor McManaman. They may have Del Piero and Ravanelli or Casiraghi. gio. Albertini is young but very Muster wipes out his bad memories

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS reports from Dubai

Thomas Muster thoroughly enjoyed his first-round match at the Dubai Open last night. which was a pienie in an oasis compared to his experience here a year ago.

On that occasion the Austrian arrived as the newly elevated world No 1, jet-lagged after a Davis Cup tie in South Africa which had been prolonged by rain, and lost in the first round against Sandon Stolle, a "lucky loser" from the qualifying.
The match had been prefaced

by insults from the Americans Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi concerning Muster's right to be recognised as No 1 after winning all but two of his titles on clay courts. Muster probably would have taken greater exception to their remarks had he heen wider awake after arriving from Johannesburg at 5am.

Yesterday, rested and properly prepared. Muster accounted for Sweden's Tomas Nydahl, 6-4, 6-3, in 81 minutes. The Austrian No 2 seed will now play Martin Sinner, the German qualifier who eliminated Britain's Tim Henman on Mon-

Henman was not the only one to make a regrettable departure. The Moroccan doubles team of Karim Alami and Hicham Arazi was disqualified by the British umpire, Gerry Armstrong, famed for showing John

McEnroe the door at the 1990 Australian Open.

Arazi was warned for ball abuse at the end of the first set against Pablo Albano, of Argentina, and Sweden's Peter Nyborg. Alami was given a penalty point for racket abuse at 15-30 in the last game and again at the

end of the game. Their opponents, who were leading 6-4, 6-7, 6-5, were awarded the match - and Alami and Arazi were automatically disqualified from the singles as well of the doubles, losing a total of \$10.630 (£6.600) each,

with a fine to come. The two "lucky losers" to benefit are the Czech David Rikl. who replaces Alami against Stolle, and Hendrik Jan Davids. of the Netherlands,

who plays Italy's Renzo Furlan in place of Arazi.

Henman did manage to make a good impression, in spite of losing in the first round of the doubles as well as the singles. The British No 1 at least can boast the distinction of becoming the first player to have his handprints set in plaster, Hollywood fashion, for the creation of a "tennis walk of fame" at the Dubai Tennis Stadium.

This act of faith in Henman's future was followed by the laying on of hands by the Spaniard Carlos Moya, anothbright prospect, along with the handprints of four established performers. Boris Becker, Goran Ivanisevic, Richard Krajicek and Thomas Muster. The prints will be placed in a

WORLD CUP GROUP TWO England v Italy (8.0). (at Wembley Stadium) GROUP SIX Spain v Maita (9.30)

EUROPEAN UNDER-21, CHAMPIO GROUP TWO

England v Italy (8.0) iat Ashton Gare, Brist

granite star outside the Royal Enclosuite.

Becker was the only player to experience difficulty, chiefly because the plaster in his tray had begun to set. The German was again frustrated after moving to a second tray before eventualsucceeding in three sets.

Henman caused a slight stir while practising making his prints. He inadvertently put his hands on the frame, which tipped and splashed wet plaster over a press officer.

Life c'n the court continued to be rather more complicated for Henrnan, who partnered Pat Cash to a defeat in the doubles against David Nainkin, of South Africa, and Dutchman Rogier Wassen, 7-6, 4-6, 6-4. Results, Digest, page 23

TODAY'S FIXTURES

WELSH CUT? Quarter-final replay: Owntoran Town v Holy well Town.

LEAGUE OF WALES Gilbert League Cup Quarter-fix at second-leg: Bangor Cny (0) v Rhyl (0); Caernarion Town (1) v Llansanti-fraid (1) (7, 45); Inter Cable-Tel Cardiff (1) v Barry Town (3) (7,30); Ton Pertre (0) v New-town (0) (7,30).

PRESS ANT JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE Hundy v Fri serburgh; Keith v Clachnacud dn; Lossier wuth v Fort William; Rothes v El-

WINSTONILIEAD KENT LEAGUE: Hythe Utd v Heme Bely: Sheppey Utd v Chatham Town. SCREWFIX DRECT LEAGUE Premier Di-

UNLET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Di-vision: Mild: Cal. v Selsey (7.15).

URLSPORT| United Counties League Pre-mier Division; Bourne v Boston Town.

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Di-

for more than a decade, left the team late last year and was

thought to have taken early retirement. He and Ferrari's recently appointed technical director, Ross Brawn, were seen as the creative force at Benetton in recent years. Brawn also left Benetton in December and ioined Ferrari early this year. Barnard, the successful

McLaren designer in the late 1980s, is understood to be interested in working with Alain

AYON INSURANCE COM

Rugby Union

Goulding to stay

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

The St Helens captain. Bobbie Goulding, has delighted the club by withdrawing his transfer request.

The Saints board met vesterday to discuss Goulding's apparent determination to seek a move if the club would not improve his contract, but the scrum-half forestalled that meeting by asking the directors to cancel his request.

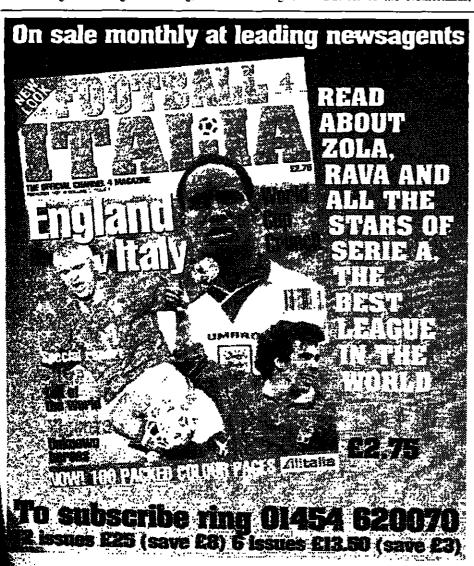
Eric Ashton, the St Helens chairman, said the club had not placated Goulding by agreeing to pay him any extra money and that Goulding had given no indication of why he had changed his mind. Goulding, who has already, at Prost, who wants to buy Ligier. | the age of 25, played for Wigan,

key figure in winning the double of Challenge Cup and Super League last year, but was sent off in the Cup victory over Wigan on Saturday and faces a League disciplinary committee tomorrow.

Wigan's directors were last night discussing Newcastle's £750,000 bid for Va'aiga Tuig-amala. The former All Black is widely expected to return to rughy union this week.

St Helens, Wigan, Carlisle and Dudley Hill are all to face a League sub-committee on Friday over brawls in their Cupties last weekend.

on 22 February is to be the London Broncos match against Bradford Bulls, which will be played at The Stoop, their new home this season.



WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS FORECAST

Nationwide Football League First Division

Second Division

Third Division

17 Darlington v Scunthorpe . 18 Doncaster v Barner eyton Orient v Camondge Vanstieldt v Levele GM Vauxball Conference

eld v Rusinden & Diamonda: amite r Welling . 33 Slough v/Northwei Also playing past on coupons): Wolang v South port.

icis Legigne Premier Division

Tennents Scottish Cur

Fourth round 45 Rangers v East Frie... Bell's Scottish League

Second Division Third Division

47 Alben Royers v Inve

eath y Queen's Park 49 East Stirting v Fortar Five awaye: Stoke City, Blacko Uto, Dulwich Hamlet, Ayr.

PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Lvo pool v Leeds Uto 17.01. First Division: Hut desfried Town v Wolverhamton Wanders 17.01: Middlesbrough v Asson Villa 17.01: Po Vale v Coverny Cry 17.01. Second Division Servisiy v Marsield Own 17.01; Bradford C THIS FRIDAY, remember that all women are made of the same thing. ANGLO-WELSH CUP Pool 28: Trearchy CLUB MATCHES: Oxford Lingersay v The Am Putty 0500 43 43 43 Delicered straight to the heart this Valentine's Day

Barco dead for Ro

Call Ski

The televised fifth-round tie

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sport

Barcelona deadline for Robson

NICK DUXBURY

Managers were having a tough time again yesterday, with Old-ham Athletic parting company with Graham Sharp and Barolona giving Bobby Robson 15 days to improve results or pacifies suitcase.

Sharp and his No 2, Colin Harrey, resigned after considering their position following the 3-0 defeat against Grimsby on Saturday. The result left Oldham bottom of the First Division and led to a 45-minute inquest in a locked dressing-room after the final whistle.

"We understand their reasons for resigning and there is no acrimony on either side," a chio sman said.

The former Everton duo took over in November 1994. from Joe Royle, who ironically quit the Latics to become the

manager at Goodison Park
Andy Ritchie, the former
Oldham striker now playing
for Scarborough, is the supporters choice to take over, but he may face opposition from Jimmy Nicholl, who was sacked by Millwall on Monday and Neil Warnock, shown the door at Plymouth Argyle last week.

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The departure lounge at Barcelona airport could soon see Robson passing through clutching a one-way ticket. The former England manager had a five-hour meeting with club officials yesterday at which he was told to start winning games, beginning against Racing de San-tander this weekend.

"I'm aware that people may be looking for a culprit, but I'm Norfolk yet saw little of Nornot afraid that that culprit may be me," said Robson, whose reimburser team trail leaders Real Madrid travelling.

by eight points. A gap too wide for Barcelona, who are said to be considering replacing Rob-son with the Croat coach Tomislay lvic or the club's assistant trainer, Carles Rexach, for the rest of the season while they step up negotiations to land the

Ajax manager, Luis van Gaal, Blackburn Rovers, who will be monitoring the Robson sit-uation carefully, have been re-jected by Marck Citko. The Polish striker, in a sudden display of altruism, cited personal issues and loyalty for turning down a £2.75m transfer and staying with Widzew Lodz. "I am staying with the chib to which I owe so much," he said "I am not concerned with fi-

nancial matters." Arsenal have dismissed reports ensanating from Italy that they had offered £7m for the Lazio striker Giuseppe Signori but confirmed that they are plan-ting to extend Highbury's 38,000 capacity. Islington Council are to carry out a feasibility study.

The Reading keeper, Bobby Mikhailov, will not play again this season after a scan confirmed cruciate ligament damage to his left knee. The Bulgarian international, 34 today, was injured in a collision with Scott Sellars during Saturday's 3-2 victory at Bolton Wanderers.

A supporter, Rob Emery, is to seek £200 compensation from the Football League in what is seen by many as a test case. He maintains that Norwich City's match at Tranmere Rovers last mouth should never have started because of fog. Emery, who endured a nine-hour, 500-mile round trip from wich's 3-1 defeat, is demanding

Scimeca's incentive

Iwo at Ashton Gate today.

For Riccardo's Italian-born father, Benedetto, has promised to give up smoking after 38 years if his son manages to score his first goal for England Under-21 in what is an important top-ofthe-table encounter. England head the group by a point from

Italy, who have a game in hand. Scimeca Jnr, who captains the side for the first time, had the chance to break that duck in

Riccardo Scimeca, Aston Villa's
England's last home international against Poland in October, but his penalty was saved
incentive to thwart Italy's anbitions of qualifying for the European Championship when Benedetto said: "I am serious the two countries meet in Group about giving up the cigarettes if

England have included two new caps in the midfield pairing of Arsenal's Stephen Hughes and Paul Murray, of Queen's Park Rangers.

ESSEAND UNDER-21. (European Under-21. Charmalosship v Raily, Ashton Gate, hotely). Marshall (Norwich), Russe (Assent), Kalif (Chestry), Solmona (Aston Ma, cart), Russe (Chestron), Carbon (Detty), Marsay (PP), Hughes (Assent), Hasley (Leucestor), Endie (Norwich), Bonyer (Leuch), Substitutes Caraginer (Leuropo), Wright (powich), Huckarby (Coverty), Scowcroft (Ipswich), Holiand (Elmungham).



Bowe leaves ring for 'The Crucible'

Riddick Bowe, a former world heavyweight champion, stepped off a plane and into the ranks of the United States Marines on

The 29-year-old Bowe and 21 other new recruits, most of them in their teens, were met by three Marine instructors at He will be with them on one Charleston airport in South Carolina prior to a bus trip to for three years.

Marine Corps training centre.

The newest, and probably the first multi-millionaire Marine briefly scanned the crowd upon arrival, but showed no emotion. Bowe stunned the boxing world last month with his announcement that he was ful-

Divisione: Carstration Athletic 2 Chestory C: De-gentern & Reductige 1 Hereforn 1. First Sivisione Coyclon 1 Whyselestic 2. Federation: Brewery Northern Laugue First Divisione: Whathern 3 Westly 2. Prentine Leegale Coy Group Text: Ser-borough 1 York 1. Group Fisse: Criesterfield 1 Scurimory 3. Aven. Incarance Combination First Division: Queen's Park. Rangiess 5 Milusel 0 (at Hactors Borough): Swindon 2 Southemp-ton 2; Totterham 1. Bournemouth 0 for St A-bars Chyl. Fix Yorth Cup Fourth research Christon 9 Notertham 2. Fourth-round register. Electon

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: RAF 7 British Police 6; Oxford University 2 Army 3.

Hockey

filing a lifelong dream by enlisting in the Marine Reserves. weekend a month of active duty training that should make preparing for a fight with Mike Tyson or Evander Holyfield

eem like a day at the beach. The Marine training, however, could be just the thing for the often overweight and out of shape fighter, whose last two bouts were disasters.

Bowe, who won the heavyweight title by beating Holyfield in 1992, was getting battered by

when the Polish-born fighter was disqualified for a succession of low blows.

The culmination of Boot Camp is an exercise knows as 'The Crucible", a gruelling 35-mile march to be completed in 54 hours on low rations and little rest.

"It's a pretty serious shock," said Gunnery Sgt Melvin Allen of the trainees' regime. "The

Bowe must first get through Andrew Golota in each of his first couple of weeks they don't Boot Camp, 12 weeks of basic last two fights only to win know what to expect."

If he survives basic training Bowe will graduate on 9 May, when the fighter who has made an estimated \$100m (£62.5m) in and out of the ring will begin to earn as little as \$600 a month as

a private in the Marine Reserves. Bowe will be the fourth former heavyweight champion to serve in the Marines, joining Gene Tunney, Leon Spinks and Ken Norton.

Cork now raring to go after 'off game'

Cricket

Dominic Cork has dismissed runtours circulating in recent weeks that he is out of sorts both physically and mentally, claiming his only problem was that he had an "off game" in Wellington. The England bowler had a

slight back problem before the first Test in Auckland, missed the first leg of this winter's tour in Zimbabwe because of personal problems at home. and in England's second Test victory at the Basin Reserve he ook only one wicket. So far, in the two Tests against the Kiwis. Cork only has five wickets to his name at an average of 43.

In Wellington, his howling looked lethargic at times, al-though it improved towards the end of the match.

Cork said: "I think it's more a case of not getting it quite right on the day. Every bowler goes through a patch where the ball just misses an edge or an lbw is not given. Hopefully it will be my turn in the next Test, but Darren Gough and Andy Cad-dick bowled brilliantly and got the wickets in Wellington. As long as England win then having an off game is line by me!"

With New Zealand 1-0 down, England officials are expecting to see far more grass than usual left on the pitch, so although England want to keep the same side, including both spinners, there may be a case for a fourth

At the instigation of avid football fan, Alce Stewart, and readily agreed to by coach David Lloyd, England's practice session in Christchurch has been scheduled to start late in the morning so the players can watch England's World Cup match against Italy live on satel-

Lloyd said no one in the squad would make the mistake of relaxing their grip on New Zealand now a 1-0 lead has been established in the three-Test

series. Chris Silverwood, the 21year-old Yorkshire fast bowler, has been ruled out of contention for the Test. He split the webbing between his right thumb and forefinger in a fielding practice accident two days before the second Test. Craig White or Alan Mullally could play in place of one of England's spinners if there is a green top. New Zealand have dropped batsman Adam Parore and called up the uncapped Matthew Horne. Parore has been out of form, producing scores of 6, 33, 4 and 15 in the first two Tests of against England, Horne, 26, has played two matches against Eng. land on its tour, including scoring 64 for New Zealand A at Wanganui.

Athletics

International attributes officials have taunched an investigation into a fight which broke out when a drug tester tried to take urine samples from Greek attributes in Germany last week. The international Amateur Athletic Federation said yesterday it was studying a report from one of its drug testers, who alleges he was pushed about by an angly Greek cach when he was tright to pany out. he was pushed about by an angly Greek coach when he was trying to carry out random training tests in Dortrumd. The doping official was unable to take any urine samples for analysis and the Greek athletes could face a four-year ban if they are found guilty of having refused to provide them — the equivalent of testing positive for banned substances under IAAF rules. The rest of the second then In the march of Headlest of the white

der IAAF ruiese. The two-time former world champion, will aim to complete a her-trick in next morth's World Cross-country Championships in Italy. Peterse — who won the title as a teerage Zola Budd running for Britain in 1984 and 1985 – has been named in the South African squad to contest the event in Turk on 23 March.

TUTH OF 25 MENDAR MEETING (Bence, R) Selected results: Men: 60m hundles: 1 A Putignani (ft) 7.75esc; 2 P Lumin (ft) 7.76; 3 G Gundemen (Not 7.85. Long Jumps 1 Y Mexigutova (Rus) 7.96m; 2 E Bangue (ft)

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7.86; 3 S Bianchi (b) 7.70. Women: Shot: 1.S Kittelene (Ruc) 18.62m; 2 M Roscien (b) 17.29; 3 M Remot (Sp) 17.47. 60m hardes; 1 P Gareri (R) 8.05ec; 2 C Tuzz (t) 8.13; 3 S Laulinova (Rus) 8.19. 80m; 1 N Mezigsiova (Rus) 7.33ec; 2 M Zheose (Rus) 7.46; 3 G Gejira (t) 7.46.

Cricket
Liam Botham yestenday agreed a lucrafte one-year deal to play for the Bradford League club, Windhill, and admitted
he has not ruled out a possible return
to county cricket. The 19-year-old son
of the former England player, ian Botham, left Hampshire after one season
to sign a professional contract season
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91) v Tasmania.
RED STRIPE CUP: St Georgie's, Greneda
(Dated day of four): Berbedos 161 and 167:
Windward Islands 165 and 111 (O Gibson.
3-37). Berbedos won by S1 ross. St.
Johar's (Final day of four, rain prevented
plays: Lessard Islands 352; Trinted and To-hago 26 for 2. March absentioned as draw.
SUPERSPORT SERIES (Final day of four)
Johannesburg: Taransal 371 and 263 for 8
dec; Western Province 227 and 352 for 7
(H Gibts 103, H Actionnan 122, E Smores
Scho). Match deawn.

SNOW REPORT - in association with Thomas Cook Ski Direct

AROUND THE RESORTS

Brighton and Hove Albion yesterday signed Robbie Reinelt, the 23-year-old Colchester United striker, for £15,000. Colchester United striker, for £15,000. PREMIDESHIP AND FIRST DINISION SUSPES-SIONER Sendings-off: Di Powell (Dany Cou-by 3 matches from 15 Feb; S Lelleh (Sendon) 1 meth from 12 Feb; M Keere (Grander) consis-est from 15 Feb; M (Monetial Christop) consis-form 15 Feb; R (Fleck (Norwich) 2 matches from 15 Feb; C (Flexing) (Ordram) 1 match from 15 Feb; S (Flexing) (Ordram) 1 match from 15 Feb; S (Flexing) (Ordram) 1 matches from 15 Feb; S Robinson (Berning) am 3 matches from 19 Feb; S Robinson (Berning) am 3 matches from 19 Feb; M (September 1) a matches from 19 Feb; S Robinson (Berning) am 3 matches from 19 Feb; M (September 1) a matches from 19 Febr. & Sendinger (Sermungfrein) 1. match from 15
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(Swindon) 2 matches from 10 Febr. Serv. A Sendin
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15 Febr. A Thompson (Bioleton of) 2 matches
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matches from 10 Febr from I handles on Peters
atter match vessus WSR on 8 Dec)
MONDAY'S LOTE RESULTIE: Belf's Soutish
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Area Last Ler Upp

125 170

Shefield Steelers closed the gap on the Super League leaders, Cardiff Devils, to two points by winning their game in hand at Sheffield Arens on Monday regist. Alex. Dampier's side best their "bogey" team, Ayr Scottish Eagles, 4-1 — only their second win in Sir meetings between the two sides this season. MHL: Mortireal 4 San Jose 2; Phipenix 4 St Rugby Union CLUB MATCHES: Cancelled: Abersion v Ton-mer, Porsyand v Chepsjow; Maesing v Glan-

> Australia will challenge for the 1997 Admiral's Cup at Cowes after missing the last event two years ago because of the unevallability of top-class salions and the high costs involved. Syd Fischer will lead a team of three boats for the eight-race waterte in Irak and August eventulation. regetta in July and August, culminating in the Fastnet Race off the English coast. Fischet, a veteran of seven Admina's Cup regattas and numerous America's Cup campaigns, will be joined by skippers Steve Kulmar and John Calvert-Jones.

APRE WORLD CHAMPONSHPS (Seutriere, II) Women's super-disert statem: Leading positions: 1.1 Kosmir fill; 1707. Spots: 1 X Derg (cer. 1:23.54; 4 C Hornster (r) 1:23.58; 5 X Canaractor (cor. 1:24.00; 6 R Capara, Kult. 1:24.47; 7 V Wong (see) 1:24.47; 8 M Dorfmester (Aut. 1:24.53; 9 S Medien (b) 1:24.47; 10 V Zelenstaya (Run) 1:25.08.

SYBASE OPEN (San Jose, California) First round: M Norman (Swe) bl.C Mennat (US) 7-6 6-0; B Staven (M2) bt N Person (Ven) 6-1 7-5; C Wandard (US) bt N Person (Ven) 6-1 7-5; C Wandard (US) bt N Person (NS) 6-2 6-3; J Turango (US) bt N Joyce (US) 6-4 6-3; M Chang (US) bt M Washington (US) 6-2 6-0; T Monton (US) bt S Byen (US) 6-1 6-4.

(US) US 5 Stylen (US) C-1.0-4.
MARSCELLE OPEN (France) Meer's singles first counce? F Santono (Fri bt. S Grospets (Fr) 6-4.
5-7.6-1; J Van Erck (Bed) th F Desculf (Bel) 6-4.
6-4; A Cement (Fr) bt. K Nucera (Stock) 6-1.
6-1; N Kuft (Swe) bt. M Marry (Bel) 6-2.6-4.
T Cadoncel (Ss) bt. M Marry (Bel) 6-2.6-4.
6-0; D Hisbity (Stock); bt. Streen (Fr) 7-8.6-7.

7-6. LIA WOMEN'S SATELLITE (Birminghorn) Plant round (68 undess stated): L Arl in R Wolder, 6-4 6-2; L Woodroffe in C Di Nation (62-6-3; L Julimer of A Comband (8) 2-6 6-4; O karona (6us) Dt Mikale (boom 6-1.6-2; E Bond in S Tolu (7): 6-4 5-7 7-5; H Mattheus in S Finer (Swe) 6-4 7-5; C Taylor of O Obuscharia (Bota) 7-5 7-5.

Chang states his case in clean manner

SPORTING DIGEST

Michael Chang, the twice former champion, and the fourth seed. Todd Martin, vesterday recorded convincing straightsets victories in the first round of the Sybase Open tournament in San Jose, California.

Chang, the No 2 seed who won the event in 1988 and 1992, overwhelmed Mashiska Washington, a qualifier who is the younger brother of MaliVai, 6-2, 6-0. The world No 4 said, however, he must improve his service if he is to take the top spot from Pete Sampras this year. 'A lot of the big guys like Pete get a lot of free points off their serve," Chang said. "If I can get a few more free points myself, it will put more pressure on my opponents

Martin, playing his first tourmonths out with a knee injury, cruised into the second round with a 6-1, 6-4 victory over fellow American Steve Bryan. Sampras opens his defence

against Alex Radulescu, of Germany, in a tournament which sees the third seed Andre Agas-si make his return from injury.

> Number **54.7**

TODAY'S

The percentage share of the terrestrial television audience enjoyed by B8C2 for the Benson and Hedges Masters snooker final between Steve Davis and Ronnie O'Sullivar on Sunday. Nearly 10 million viewers tuned in.

Kostner wins **Italy's third** gold medal

Skiing

Isolde Kostner retained her super-giant slalom title to complete a hat-trick of gold medals for the hosts, Italy, at the world championships in Sestriere. Kostner, who hails from the

German-speaking village of St Ulrich in Val Gardena, overcame a poor start to clock Imin 23.50sec down the Kandahar-Banchetta piste and heat Germany's Katja Seizinger by 0.08sec. Seizinger, the Olympic downhill gold medallist and former super-G world champion, was in turn 0.06sec ahead of her compatriot, Hilde Gerg.
"I was never troubled by all the attention," said Kostner.

shrugging off huge local ex-pectations after Italy's Deborah Compagnoni won the first two women's races. She matched Compagnoni's achievement in defending a title, but Kostner said it was the

Norwegian Atle Skaardal retaining his men's super-G title in the opening race of the championships that had been provided more help to her. Particularly the way he skied the bottom part of the course. "I tried to follow his line and it was the right thing to do because I won... I knew I could win on this course as Skaardal has the same skis as me," she said.

After her poor start, she made up more than 0.40 seconds in the final stages to win. "I thought I'd go well on the upper part and have a few problems at the bottom. In fact it was the other way round," she said. Seizinger, who set off fifth, straight after Gerg, made a few mistakes that sent her wide of the racing line. "The eight-hundredths stink," she said of

the winning margin. "The result, however, is no surprise."

The Jets will give up four

American football Bill Parcells can begin coaching the New York Jets immediately

Parcells can coach Jets

after Paul Tagliabue, the NFL commissioner, brokered a deal on Monday between the Jets and New England Patriots, who he left last month after taking them to the Super Bowl.

After more than six hours of meetings with Leon Hess, the Jets owner, and Bob Kraft, the Patriots owner, Tagliabue announced a resolution to the coaching controversy that he declared would make fans of both the Patriots and Jets happy.

draft picks over three years to New England for the right to have Parcells on the sidelines for the 1997 season. But they did not have to relinquish this year's number one overall pick, which Kraft had demanded.

The Patriots will receive the Jets' third and fourth round draft picks this year, the second round pick in 1998 and a first round selection in 1999.

The Jets also agreed to donate. \$300,000 (almost £185,000) to the . Patriots' charitable foundation. Both sides agreed to allow a Tagliabue to determine the compensation package after failing to reach an agreement.

Last Wednesday the Jets at-tempted to sidestep demands for compensation by naming Parcells a consultant for the 1997 season with the under≠ standing that he would take over the team in 1998. They named Parcells' longs:

time right-hand man, Bill Beh-t chick, head couch for 1997, with a job as assistant to Parcells beginning in 1998. Kraft labelled the consultant job "a transparent farce" and formally asked Tagliabue to step in.

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MALY

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the Marines, page 23

WORLD CUP: Hoddle refuses to reveal results of fitness tests on Adams and Ince as he prepares for crucial qualifying match

Zola threatens the English renaissance

GLENN MOORE

Football Correspondent

The extent of English football's renaissance football's renaissance will be tested tonight by an Italian side seeking to embark upon a rebirth of their own.

On a wet and windy Wembley night, far removed from the summer of lions. England will seek to revive the memory of Euro96 and Italy to exorcise it.

There is a sense that Italy, one of the few nations whose football pedigree surpasses England's, are vulnerable. Dispatched in the group stages in the summer, under new management, weak in core positions, they come to Wembley in a state of flux.

However, they also arrive bolstered by the knowledge that Juventus have twice outplayed Manchester United this season, that Gianfranco Zola is running riot in the Premiership, and that England are riven by injuries (although some of Machiavelli's descendants suspect a "smokescreen").

It could also be argued that their Euro96 departure was, at worst, unfortunate. Arrigo Sacchi's foolish team selections were compounded by a referee s cowardice in not dismissing Andreas Kopke in the crucial group game. Like England, Italy drew with Germany.

Sacchi has since gone and his replacement, Cesare Maldini, has had only a one-sided match with Northern Ireland with which to prepare. He is no novice, though. Watching a video of one of the great Italian performances, the 3-2 win over Brazil in the 1982 World Cup, one sees a man in a white jacket leap from the Italian bench to embrace Paolo Rossi at the final whistle. That man was Maldini, a part of the Italian national coaching set-up since before Glenn Hoddle even played international football.

where he captained Milan to a European Cup win over Benfica

Maldini arrives at Wembley,

The calm before the storm: Italy's Gianfranco Zola at Wembley yesterday, preparing for tonight's World Cup qualifier against England

yesterday afternoon's fitness

tests - Hoddle was not reveal-

ing the results - it will prove be

was not laying a false trail, not

that vindication will give him

any satisfaction. "They are no more than 50-50," Hoddle said.

If Ince is absent, Jamie Red-

than Paul

knapp may be a better re-

Gascoigne. He is fitter. more

disciplined and rarely wastes a pass. Gascoigne could still have

a part to play. Introduced after

Maldini," the TV reporter said

yesterday, gesturing to a media

scrummage on the Wembley

terracing which resembled an

As he spoke, the white pick-

up truck on which he stood

revved into life. "Oh," our in-

trepid reporter shouted to his cameraman. "He's driving

In the meantime, the man

who will guide his country's for-tunes in tonight's World Cup qualifier was busy saying as lit-

No, he was not waiting to see what line-up Glenn Hoddle

picked before announcing his own and if his plans involved

Agoraphobics' Convention.

placement

an hour, when the game has unlock doors, it will be tight and jury than Tony Adams, the other major doubt, his ankle probslowed to his pace, he could be lem. If both have failed devastating.

The back three are likely to be Sol Campbell, Gareth Southgate and Stuart Pearce, one of whom may track Zola. While this is a departure from standard practice, the alternative is to have three men marking Zola's partner while the little Sardinan floats behind him.

David Seaman is fit to keep goal and his experience could be for turning a bunch of drunkcrucial. There is not much between the sides," Hoddle said.

it might come down to a lack of concentration in defence."

Hoddle added that European football has "respect for English players now." Up to a point. Italian press compliments have been back-handed. "Fistfights, beer, drugs and jail: yes, we're English" ran one headling in the Turin daily La Stampa as it listed the squad's past misdemeanours. Hoddle was praised ards, pub brawlers, and drug addicts into one of the best national

McManaman's efforts to change people's perception of him, which he spoke about in The Independent on Monday, appear to have been startlingly successful. La Repubblica described

the contrast between him and Gascoigne thus: "On the one hand Gazza, who represents the England of beer, the inner cities, pubs, darts and tits on page three of The Sun, the sort of washed-up character you'd find in a Ken Loach film; on the other Macca, who is all afternoon tea, cashmere, the City and stiff

upper lip; he could be played by

lvory production.

Hopefully they will thus be celebrating with, respectively, a-bottle of Newky Brown, and a cup of Earl Grey tonight.

Hoddle stressed that "a draw would not be a disaster" but it would leave England struggling to earn automatic qualification for France '98.

Labours

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2000年度の1975年度の1970年度は1980年度。 1980年度によっております。

Blair

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Same and a second

7 7 3

England have not beaten Italy in four games and 20years. It will be difficult and tense but they now have the quality and confidence to do so.

Robbie Fowler. Ian Wright and THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

34 years ago, with a strong hand Fabrizio Ravanelli, Enri-

co Chiesa and Alessandro Del

Piero make a £30m front three

which would match most in

the world. Yet all could be on

the bench. Luca Vialli and

Beppe Signori are not even in

Yet Italy, as Don Howe ex-

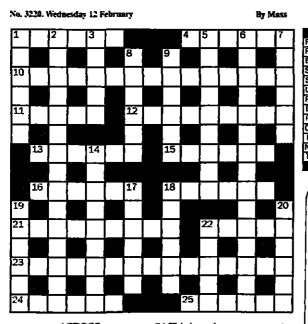
plains inside, are vulnerable in

the key positions of goalkeep-er and sweeper. England, de-

pending on who is fit when the

smoke finally clears, also have

rare riches. Les Ferdinand,



- чыт" (b) 4 Plugs and ball accumulate surface film of liquid (6)
- 10 Repays too much? Mistakenly, CA posts even more (15) 11 Wood, deal, cut by first of
- sawyers (5)
 12 Books arrest one, about mon- 3
- 13 Drive and acumen, we hear 15 Reduce the rent for the sake
- of economy (6)

 10 Fancies drink outside bar on 7
 way back (6)

 18 Indian audibly losing head in
- scraps (6) 21 Bird (on blighted tree, dead)
- emitted short notes (9)
 22 He cuts thousand given to
- 22 He cuts thousand given to debtor (5)
 23 Conservative reversals of pol14 Attire is knitted without right needles (9)
 17 Cleans shelves (6)
- DOWN

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- rest later (8.7)
- for the creature (6.3) Atlas is not available here (2.3.2.3.5)
- country, ignoring the heart of

Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC. I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Back issues, available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370, Wednesday 12 February 1987 Represed as a newspaper with the Post Office

Steve McManaman could be on

One hopes McManaman

plays, ideally in a refurbished

Christmas Tree formation. That

would have him and Paul Mer-

son roaming behind Alan Shear-

er, who is fit after his back injury

David Beckham and Graeme Le

Saux, two ball-playing athletes

and excellent crossers, will pa-

trol the flanks. Between them

David Batty and Paul Ince

likely to overcome his thigh in-

However, Ince looks even less

would anchor the midfield.

sponded to spells in traction.

the bench.

- fore Unionist enters (2.3) Leave snare mostly hidden
- Driver, traveller in rough
- Spike the demon drink (6) Concerned with drink and

18 River silt rising round one platform (6) 19 A Queen cradling one mite?

(6) 30 Ostentarious club (6) 22 Consort's with Queen Moth-

The bleak realities of professional rugby left their mark on one of the outstanding figures in the English game yes-terday when John Hall, world-class flanker and champion team manager, lost his £60,000-a-year post at Bath. No one at the Recreation

er big games.' For all Maldini's down-playing, however, the game does in-deed feel big and that sensation

is not wholly the product of the febrile coverage it has stimulated in recent days.

sweeper in order to deal with

Alan Shearer, he was not letting

No, he did not think Wemb-

ley would hold any psychological sway over his men. "These

guys play all over the world," he said. This is no different to oth-

Perhaps it is something about the inherent glamour of any Italian team. Even reciting the names of players only previous glimpsed on Channel 4 creates

"Somewhere in here, I promise bringing in the Real Madrid you, is the Italian coach Cesare defender. Christian Panucci, as Mike Rowbottom group of around 30 supporters don't think playing here helps," carrying Italian flags. "We are all he said. "It doesn't really mat-

joins the Italian squad at Wembley

Maldini's mischief with the

a sense of esoteric relish. Di Livio... Di Matteo... Casiraghi... They were all out on the Wembley turf yesterday, wearing blue bobble hats and gloves against the insidious dampness

of a grey February day but their session offered little clue as to their tactics for tonight. Unless, of course, they plan to spend time hopping, stretching and chattering in an attempt to lure England off their guard.

The players were helped to feel at home by energetic chanting - "It-al-ia, It-al-ia" - from a club-mate, Roberto Di Matteo, rizio Ravanelli. And the Siberting - "It-al-ia, It-al-ia" - from a proferred a different opinion. "I Fox had given him his blue bat.

Dato, of Archway, said. Neither she nor her companions - from Highgate, Golders Green, The Angel. Islington, and, in the case of Matten, Quagliarini, Perugia - had tickets. But there were high hopes expressed that Dato's uncle, chauffeuring for

to do something about that. Much has been made of the potential advantage to Italians playing in the Premiership when it came to knowing about their English opponents. "Playing here is a very big help." Chel-sea's Gianfranco Zola said. His

the Italian squad, might be able

Italian and proud of it," Enza ter." Good to get that cleared up definitively. Di Matteo did, however, ven

ture the opinion that tonight's game would be very tight. "Each team will treat the other with a lot of respect. If we lose it will be difficult for us. But we always have the return game in Italy..."

As the Italian coach manocuvred out of the narrow. players' entrance, the media dispersed to evaluate the information it had gathered.

One onlooker was more than satisfied. The supporter from Perugia had managed a word with his city's more famous son, Fab

Hall pays the price for failure at Bath

tle as possible.

CHRIS HEWEIT

Ground would confirm whether he had jumped or been pushed. but there was no doubt that Hall had paid the price of failure.

Less than 72 hours after Bath's Pilkington Cup demise

director of rugby became the you derive from it. I can safely first big name on rugby's mana-say that I haven't enjoyed this gerial scrapheap. He will not be the last. After a century or more of amateurism, financial freedom has thrust the sport into a whole new ball game, the rules of which are very different to those in force less than

a year ago.
Tony Swift, the Bath chief executive and a long-time playof Hall's, last night refused to discuss the precise nature of yesterday's boardroom delibera-tions. But he admitted: "This has probably been the worst day of my working life. An essential at the hands of Leicester, their part of any job is the enjoyment

episode one little bit."

However, he continued: "It is imperative that decisions are taken in the best long-term interests of the club. I have enor-John achieved at Bath, but now is the time to make the most of the future lying before us."

It is the second time in tess than two months that Bath, league and cup winners last season but struggling this time round, have lost a key back-room figure. Last month, Brian Ashton quit as chief coach, citing frustration with the management set-up. Reports of a

Swift said that new coaching appointments would soon be announced. The new coaching set-up, under the command of Andy Robinson, will include Nigel Redman, the long-serving former England lock forward. More intriguing, though, will

be the arrival of Clive Woodward, one of the most imaginative tactical brains in the British game. The former Leicester and Lions centre quit his post with London Irish before Christmas and has been seen regularly at Bath since Ashton's departure. Yesterday, he confirmed that

personality clash with Hall were never convincingly repudiated. he had agreed terms with Bath, emphasising that he would be no emphasising that he would be no more than a member of the coaching team. If, however, Bath decided to appoint a new director of rugby, Woodward would be an obvious candidate.

Phil de Glanville, the Bath and England captain, confessed to a feeling of "deep surprise" at Hall's downfall as he arrived for an international squad session at Marlow yesterday. Jon Sleightholme, his club-mate on the England right wing, agreed.
"I'm shocked. There was no indication of this when the players met yesterday morning," he

Hall's fall, page 20

